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23 June 1981

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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REPORT ON ZIA'S 23 MAY SPEECH TO BNP EXECUTIVE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chairman of the Jatiyatabadi Dal, President Ziaur Rahman said on Saturday that the government would not hesitate to take proper steps to resolve the problem relating to South Talpatty.

Addressing an extended meeting of the National Executive Committee of the party, the President who presided over the meeting said that there were certain foreign countries who did not want stability in our country. These countries also did not want that Bangladesh emerged as a strong country. "We must face the challenge", he said.

President Zia said that Bangladesh had earned stability, economic progress and international respect. Efforts of his government were to take the country forward through peace. "We want to live peacefully with neighbouring and other countries", he said.

Referring to the political activities of the opposition political parties, the Chairman of BNP said that some opposition political parties were connected with anti-people and anti-national activities. In the past also these parties tried their best but did not succeeded. [as published] "We should now face them through a proper political process and politics of reason", he said.

President Zia cautioned that efforts were now being made to create chaos in the country with the help of foreign powers and said these efforts would be defeated. "There will be no civil war in this country", he declared firmly and called upon every body to be patience. [as published] He wanted all to be honest, just and dedicated and work for the country following a just path.

The Chairman of the BNP said that the present course of politics pursue [as published] by the opposition parties would only make us stronger. "BKSALites are trying to create a law and order situation. They made similar efforts in the past but failed. BKSALities [as published] are now once again out to establish one party rule. But the people of the country have already rejected them" he said.

President Zia that the measures had been taken to check price spiral of commodities, bring law and order situation under control and eradication of corruption. [as published] He said that there was no food shortage [as published] in the

country. There was a ready stock of twelve and a half lakh tons of foodgrains in government godowns. Moreover, proper arrangements had been made to import other commodities. The President expressed firmly that prices of commodities would become normal within some days.

On the law and order situation President Zia said those who would break [as published] the law would be punished under the law of the country irrespective of their party affiliations. He called upon the party leaders not to help any law breakers.

President Zia said that measures against corrupt elements had already been initiated. [as published] Those who were corrupt within the government and inside the party would be eliminated. He asked his partymen to gear up organisational activities to reach party ideals and philosophy [as published] to the people.

The meeting was also addressed by Secretary General of the party Dr A. Q. M. Badruddoza Choudhury, Minister for Foreign Affairs Prof Shamsul Huq, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism K. M. Obaidur Rahman, Minister for Cooperatives Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury, State Minister Begum Taslima Abed, Begum Farida Hassan and Jalal Ahmed Choudhury.

Apart from members of the party executive committee, party MPs also attended the meeting.

CSO: 4220/7867

BNP EXECUTIVE MEETS, PASSES RESOLUTIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 May 81 p 1

[Text] The National Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has directed their party Government to take all national and international measures for effecting immediate withdrawal Indian troops from the soil of Bangladesh. [as published]

The directive was given by a resolution adopted at the extended meeting of the party National Executive Committee held under the chairmanship of party chief President Ziaur Rahman in Dacca on Saturday. The resolution strongly condemned the naked Indian aggression on South Talpatty Island.

In another resolution the BNP National Executive Committee expressed concern at the price spiral of the essential commodities and directed the party government to take all measures to check it.

In order to control activities against the party discipline and corruption, the meeting resolved to empower National Standing Committee to investigate and take punitive action including dismissal.

The NEC of the party expressed concern at the deterioration of law and order situation and directed the party government to further strict measures to control the situation.

By a resolution the meeting praised the government measures taken against corruption and directed the party government to take stricter measures against corrupt people and law breakers.

The meeting also condoled the death of Mr Abul Kalam Serajul Islam, a member of the party National Executive Committee and directed party officials to introduce political training course on party ideals, philosophy and programme at all levels of the party.

CSO: 4220/7867

BANGLADESH

ZIA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON VISIT TO BONN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bonn May 5:--President Ziaur Rahman today said Federal Republic of Germany and Bangladesh have identified wide-ranging areas of cooperation in economic fields and that the two countries held similar views on many of the international issues of common concern cables ENA Diplomatic Correspondent Syed Deedar Bakht.

He told a crowded Press conference at Gymnic Castle that he had a very good and satisfactory talks today with West German President Karl Carstens and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The talks, he said, covered both economic political matters.

He said the two countries agreed to expand the areas of cooperation particularly in the fields of oil and gas exploration mining of coal deposits, fertiliser pulp industry electrification and population control.

President Zia said, West Germany plays an important role in the development programme of Bangladesh.

The President said Bangladesh is gifted with enormous natural resources but a vast part of the resources remained untapped. In this connection, he mentioned that Bangladesh has a very rich deposit of fine quality natural gas and said that West Germany had agreed to cooperate with Bangladesh in exploiting these natural resources.

President Zia said, his talks with German leaders also covered the Middle East situation as well as regional cooperation among South Asian nations. He said 'we discussed in-depth matters relating to South Asian matters relating to South Asian cooperation' initiated by Bangladesh. The proposed institutional-framework between the countries of the region, is expected to cover 'economic and cultural fields,' he added.

He said the Foreign Secretaries of seven countries of the region are likely to meet again in August. He hoped a meeting at Foreign Ministers level might follow.

President Zia, reiterated Bangladesh's stand on Afghanistan and said the people of Afghanistan must be allowed to determine their own destiny based on the principles of self-determination any foreign intervention. He said withdrawal of all foreign troops was necessary to create condition for allowing the people of Afghanistan to determine their future. [paragraph as published]

Replying to a question on Iran-Iraq war he said members of the Islamic Peace Mission will continue its efforts for bringing an end to the war between the two countries.

He said both Iran and Iraq had shown 'encouraging response' to the proposals of the peace mission.

He said he is expected to visit Teheran and Baghdad soon as a member of the Islamic Peace Mission and hoped the two countries will stop hostility shortly.

Replying to another question the President said Bangladesh has made legislation expanding a number of facilities to help promote foreign investment both in private and public sectors.

He said Bangladesh has also set up a new Export Processing Zone to facilitate foreign investment. He hoped that investors from West Germany will come forward to avail the opportunity. He mentioned Bangladesh had cheap labour and wide-ranging natural resources which offer opportunities for profitable investment.

CSO: 4220

ZIA ADDRESSES SEMINAR ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 81 p 1

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman on Saturday called for optimum utilisation of energy and evolving guidelines in this regard to accelerate development.

Inaugurating a two-day national seminar on "energy for development" at the Institution of Engineers, the President called upon the scientists and experts of the country to utilise their innovative knowledge training and brain to exploit the natural resources and make those available for use in the country.

Speaking on the abundance of energy, President Ziaur Rahman said that there were multiple sources of energy in the country. The sources he said are natural gas, river current biogas, coal, tidal wave, wind and forest. He said there was scope for use of solar energy by the nation for at least 10 months a year if it could be planned and tapped. He also called for exploitation of oil and gas available along the coastal line of the country.

Speaking on the multiple use of gas, the President emphasised the need for creating petro-chemical complex. He said that Bangladesh has at present a reserve of 21 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and it should be used in multi-channels. Similarly Bangladesh has also a big reserve of coal at Jamalganj, he added. The reserve of coal at Jamalganj can fuel the country for at least 100 years. He said that steps were being taken to lift coal from Jamalganj coal mine.

The President said that the exploitation of energy from multiple sources would not only save Taka 1000 crores annually but also enable the country to earn foreign exchange by exporting energy. The country, he said, now spends Taka 1000 crores annually for the import of fuel which constitutes 70 per cent of our total export earnings.

The President told the scientists to be active and go forward with their knowledge. He assured them of all assistance in their programmes and projects in the creation of energy.

Speaking on different projects President Ziaur Rahman said that the government was preparing schemes to produce electricity from the Ganges Barrage and the Brahmaputra projects.

The President said that though the country has a reserve of oil international conspiracy has been creating obstruction in exploiting it.

Speaking on the achievement of canal digging, the President said canal digging had brought 12 lakh acres of additional land under cultivation. He said that 250 canals were completed last year and 750 canals have been included in the scheme during the current year. He said that within the next few years Bangladesh would double its food production. Any difficult task could be accomplished if the manpower of the country could be guided in the right direction he said.

President Ziaur Rahman said that the use of energy in our country was very low as compared to developed countries. He stressed the need for more use of energy.

The inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by Dr R. A. Ghani State Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Anwar Hossain Chairman Bangladesh Atomic Energy (as published) Commission and Dr. Faruk Aziz Joint Secretary, in charge of Scientific and Technological Division.

CSO: 4220/7868

DEPUTY PREMIER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON 5-YEAR PLAN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] A sum of Tk. 2 650 crore will be allotted during the Second Five-Year Plan for the establishment of private sector industries under 194 industrial sub-sectors.

This was stated by Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Industries at the Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question by Mr Mohammad Toaha; a member of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal from Naokhali; on Thursday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said out of the total allocation; the foreign exchange component would be around 50 per cent.

He said that the government had already announced the investment schedule and private entrepreneurs were welcome to set up industries in the specified fields.

Replying to a question by Mr Anisuzzaman Khokon; a Treasury Bench Member from Kishoreganj; the Deputy Prime Minister said that the Government had already announced a liberal policy regarding establishment of private sector industries and there was no more any ceiling of investment.

He said that the government had gradually expanded the role of private sector in its industrialisation policy. Small sugar mills and textile mills; which were so long in the public sector; had been opened for private sector. Only seven sectors--relating to some utility services and jute--had been kept exclusively for public sector investment, he said.

Mr Jamal Uddin said that in the concurrent list of 10 sectors; private entrepreneurs come forward for joint ventures with the government.

He said that with a view to encourage private investment, the Government had divided the country into three sectors--developed; developing and priority developing area and there were provisions for tax exemption for the entrepreneurs setting up industries in these areas.

Asked whether the government had been considering any proposal to return the nationalised industries owned by the Bangladeshis; the Deputy Prime Minister said that such proposal was always under consideration of all the governments.

In reply to a question by Mr Asaduzzaman Advocate, an AL (H) member from Jessore, Mr Jamal Uddin Ahmed said that the Bangladesh Cottage and Small Industries Corporation had a total of 970 employees. He said that the corporation had spent Tk 12.34 lakh for house rent and Tk 4.50 lakh as medical allowance for these employees.

He said that the BSCIC had 23 automobiles and a sum of Tk 5.25 lakh was spent during 1979-80 for the operation and maintenance of these vehicles. Replying to a question by Ukil Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, a Treasury Bench Member from Chittagong, the Deputy Prime Minister said 10 new industrial estates for small and cottage industries would be set up during the Second Five-Year Plan at a cost of Tk six crore. There were 20 such estates till now, he said.

CSO: 4220/7863

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE LEADER DEMANDS ALL-PARTY GOVERNMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 May 81 p 3

[Text] Dr Alim-Al-Razee, Chairman of Bangladesh People's League (Razee) on Sunday reiterated his party's demand for resignation of the government, formation of an all party interim government and holding of elections within 90 days.

Addressing a Press conference, Dr Razee said that "anarchy and pessimism was the order of the day in the country" and the government had failed in all respects, so it should resign.

Dr Razee was also critical about the opposition parties and blamed them for helping the government to elect a Parliament, which he termed a mortuary of "democracy". He also charged the opposition with accepting favour from the government in the form of manpower export quota and industries.

On the issue of Razakars and Al-Badrs he said that the troubles were engineered by the government. He observed that there was no need for revival of this issue after repeal of the Collaborators Act and amnesty. Dr Razee said that freedom fighters needed no identity. The nation would remember them forever with honour.

On the return of Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the President of Awami League (Hasina) from New Delhi, Dr Razee said that there was nothing wrong with it [as published], because a citizen of Bangladesh had every right return to her homeland. However, replying to another question he said that "none would be able capture power in Bangladesh with foreign helps. I hope the daughter of Sheikh Mujib would never dream of it. [as published]

CSO: -220

MINISTER QUESTIONED ON COUNCIL ELECTION PLANS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Capt (Retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Minister for Local Rural Government and Cooperatives said on Friday that the term of office of the union parishads would expire by March, 1982.

Replying to a question by Mr Anisuzzaman Khokan (BNP) at the Jatiya Sangsad, the Minister, however; said that the existng union parishads would continue to function till new parishads are elected.

Answering to a supplementary question, he said that the Government had already undertaken a plan and had issued necessary directives for holding of the next union parishad elections.

He said that the present gram sarkars will be in office for three years beginning from the first meeting after formation of these sarkars. However, from the next term the Gram Sarkars would be in office for five years.

The Minister denied the allegation that there was scope for conflict between the Gram Sarkars and the respective union parishads. He said the manuals of the Union Parishads and the Gram Sarkars gave them independent area of jurisdiction.

Asked if the judicial functions of the Gram Sarkars would come into conflict with those of the union parishads, he said that the government gave no new judicial function to Gram Sarkars because the Gram Sarkars have been asked to arbitrate disputes among villagers, a practice which is being followed in the villages for many years. The Union Parishads on the other hand were to hold trials in "village courts", he said.

He said that the government had undertaken extensive training for the members of the Gram Sarkars at respective thana training and development centres with a view to developing the Gram Sarkars into social and economic institutions.

Replying to a question by Mr Ahmed Ali, after such training on agriculture; cooperatives, mass education; health and population control, the members of the Gram Sarkars would be able to play meaningful roles for overall social and economic development of the villeges. [as published]

Apart from this, he said; the Government was also planning to organise district level coooperatives under the leaderships of the Gram Sarkars and also to advance soft-term loans for production-oriented activities through Gram Samabaya Banks.

District Council

The Local Government Minister said that election to the district councils could not be held in time because plans were underway to more democratise those bodies.

The Minister conceded that there was no election of the district councils since 1966 and said, it could not be told right now when election of district councils would be held.

CSO: 4220/7865

DIFFERENCES IN 10-PARTY ALLIANCE DISCUSSED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Workers Party and Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal on Friday announced their programmes to observe half-day hartal on June 16.

Held at JSD central office, the Press conference was addressed by Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil and Mr Shahjahan Siraj, MP, President and Joint Secretary of JSD, Mr Haider Akbar Khan Rono and Mr Rashed Khan Menon, MP, General Secretary and a member of the Central Secretariat of the Bangladesh Workers Party and Khan Saifur Rahman and Mr Mokhlesur Rahman of SKSD.

In reply to a question, Mr Rashed Khan Menon said that views were being exchanged with the leaders of other parties of the 10-party alliance over the hartal issue. "Those who are more close, are now going with the programme", he said.

Mr Menon said that there were 'many' differences of opinion among the components of the 10-party alliance which stood as deterrant towards broadbased unity. [as published] "It would take a long time to analyse all these differences", he said.

When asked to comment over Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina's statement pledging to implement the one party BKSAL concept, Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil said, "we have never accepted BKSAL philosophy. This issue never arose while forming the 10-party alliance", he said.

Explaining the reasons for the hartal call, Mr Shahjahan Siraj, who read out a prepared statement said that the move aimed at attaining five-point demand and also forging broadbased unity among the patriotic democratic forces.

The demands included bringing down of prices of essential commodities, reduction of prices of certain agricultural inputs, improvement of law and order situation, release of political leaders, withdrawal of warrant of arrest against Khan Saifur Rahman and other political leaders, repeal of 'black laws', trial of Professor Golam Azam, proper solution of Farakka and Talpatty issues and employment opportunities for the unemployed ones.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj said that while the Indian troops landed on South Talpatty and the Indian naval ships were in our territorial waters, the government came out with a delayed statement and was now trying to use the issue for interest political propaganda.

Referring to an statement by the leaders of the three parties, Mr Shahjahan Siraj said that they considered that the government had failed to solve the Farakka and South Talpatty island issues due to its policy of appeasement followed in case of India. [as published]

The leaders claimed that the government had created the 'freedom fighter-non-freedom fighter' issue in order divert the attention of the people from the burning issues faced by the country. [as published]

Asked whether their hartal call and anti-government movement would jeopardise the required unity necessary at the moment to face foreign invasion Major Jalil said that the present government would not be able to solve these problems. It is the unity of the people which is necessary and we shall try to unite the people against the invasion", he said. [as published]

Khan Saifur Rahman said that they did not support the views that Professor Golam Azam be ousted from the country. "We want that he should be granted citizenship. He should be tried and punished".

CSO: 4220/7865

PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER ADVOCATES UNITED OPPOSITION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] United People's Party Chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed on Friday described the present regime as the national betrayer and called for a united movement of progressive democratic [as published] forces to compel it to resign, repor [as published] ENA.

He told a public meeting at Baitul Murrakam square that his party was ready to join with any other forces except the BNP Baksalites and the extreme rightists in launching a common struggle for establishing a democratic Government replacing the existing autocratic one.

Kazi Zafar said the present regime has proved to be the principal enemy of the people as it has always preferred the policy of placating India for its survival in power even compromising the national sovereignty and independence and interest of the 90 million people.

Kazi Zafar accused the present Government of pursuing a weak-kneed foreign policy which he said had given India the opportunity to land its troops on South Talpatty island. He said last year when his party said that India had hoisted its flag on the South Talpatty island the present regime denied the fact and said that India had agreed for a joint survey to determine the ownership of the island. He said the island had surfaced within Bangladesh its right over the island was indivisible. [as published] He alleged that by agreeing to joint survey, the present regime made the island a disputed territory and thus gave India the opportunity to land its troops there.

Kazi Zafar alleged that the present regime has already signed "a secret agreement" with India under which Bangladesh will have to extend corridor for passage of Indian troops to its troubled north eastern province of Assam. He also alleged that the present Government has secretly agreed to excavate a link canal between the Ganges and the Brahmaputra through Bangladesh territory in the name of solving the Farakka crisis.

CSO: 4220/7864

THREE COUNTRIES SUBMIT JOINT VENTURE PROPOSALS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 May 81 p 1

[Text] The Government has received a number of "concrete proposals" for setting up joint venture industries from West Germany, Romania and Japan and is now currently examining the details of the proposals, Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed told ENA on Wednesday.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is in charge of the Industries Ministry, said the final decision regarding the proposals would be made with a couple of months. He would not elaborate further on the subject at present.

The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated that the foreign investors appreciated the foreign investment policy of the government. The Foreign Investment Act, passed last year, had given "encouraging results, he added.

In the domestic field, Mr Jamaluddin claimed, production in industries was "satisfactory". Production targets were attained despite increasingly high cost of raw materials and of balancing and modernisation he further claimed.

The Industries Minister, however, conceded that production of sugar and molasses was "good though marginally lower than the target".

The Deputy Prime Minister also claimed that export target would be attained this year. Targets of export in frozen fish, leather, hides and skin, tea etc., he pointed out, had already been reached.

CSO: 4220/7861

FOREIGN MINISTER GREETES NEW JAPANESE MINISTER

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 May 81 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq has sent a message of greeting to new Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Sunao Sonoda and said he was looking forward to working with Mr. Sonoda closely in further widening and deepening relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

In his message the Foreign Minister also wished to cooperate with his new Japanese counterpart in promoting international peace and stability.

Foreign Minister in his message said, "please accept my heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings on your assumption of the high office of the Foreign Minister of Japan. I recall with pleasure your valuable contributions in strengthening the bilateral relations between our two countries. During your earlier turn of office as Foreign Minister I am looking forward to working with you closely in further widening and deepening our relations and also cooperating with you in promoting international peace and stability.

"I wish your excellency good health long life success and the friendly people of Japan continued peace and prosperity."

CSO: 4220/7856

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN'S 18 MAY STATEMENT QUOTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman on Monday said the Government did not lose any time at any stage in taking prompt action about Indian military action in South Talpatty island and in informing the people of the matter after receiving Indian response, reports BSS.

The spokesman was commenting on the views expressed in certain quarters as to why it took the Government one week to inform the people of Indian action in South Talpatty island.

The spokesman said: "When the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was drawn to the views expressed in certain quarters as to why it took the Bangladesh Government one week to inform the people about Indian military action in South Talpatty island. [as published] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the Bangladesh Navy boat on a routine patrol in Bangladesh waters first sighted the Indian Navy ship in the vicinity of South Talpatty island on the afternoon of 9th May 1981. After having satisfied themselves about the objectionable activities of the Indian Navy ship the Bangladesh Navy advised the Government on this matter on 10th May 1981.

"The Government of Bangladesh decided, after careful study of the report, to take diplomatic action and lodged a strong protest in writing both in Dacca and in New Delhi on 11th May 1981 against such unwarranted unilateral and illegal action by the Government of India in violation of the agreement reached between the two Governments for a peaceful solution of the problem at an early date and requested the Government of India to withdraw all Indian naval ships from Bangladesh waters and to remove all men and materials forthwith from the disputed island".

"Though the situation was highly provocative, Bangladesh Government exercised great restraint and took recourse to diplomatic action because of its firm belief in pursuing a policy of good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and negotiations. According to normal diplomatic practice, the Government of Bangladesh waited for the Indian response.

"The Government of India delivered the reply on 15th May 1981 to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi although the reply was dated 13th May, 1981 accusing Bangladesh Navy of provocative activities apparently with a view to justifying its illegal actions.

"On 16th May, 1981 the Government of Bangladesh lodged another strong protest refuting the unfounded Indian allegations and requesting the Government of India once again to withdraw all Indian naval ships from Bangladesh waters and to remove all men and materials forthwith from the disputed island and to desist from such unilateral and provocative actions in future and to seek a solution of the problem through peaceful and friendly negotiations to which India stands fully committed. Simultaneously a Press statement was also released stating the factual position.

"It is, therefore quite clear that the Government of Bangladesh did not lose any time at any stage in taking prompt action in the matter and in informing the people soon after receiving the Indian response."

CSO: 4220/7856

AWAMI LEAGUE CHAIRMAN HASINA ARRIVES FROM INDIA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Sheikh Hasina Chairman of the Presidium of Bangladesh Awami League returned to Dacca on Sunday [as published] afternoon after a six years asylum in India. She was given a tumultuous reception at the Kurmitola Airport.

She returned to Dacca accompanied by party leaders Abdus Samad Azad and Mr Korban Ali who had gone to New Delhi to bring her back and her daughter Putul. She came by Indian Airline from Calcutta and her flight was delayed by an hour.

Later addressing a mass reception at Manik Mia Avenue at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar she demanded trial of the killers of her father and Awami League leaders. Addressing a huge gathering despite torrential rain Sheikh Hasina said trial of the killers of her father members of her family and Awami League leaders would consider to have been done only when her father's second revolution aiming at exploitation-free society and establishment of four principles in the country have been achieved.

She called upon the people to extend her support in her fight against what she termed 'totalitarianism'.

She checked her emotional outburst but finally gave in when she wept unabashedly while addressing the mass reception. She was in tears when she alighted from the aircraft.

People in over 300 trucks, buses, cars and motor bikes went to Kurmitola International Airport to receive Sheikh Hasina. People started going to the airport since morning.

A large number of people made their way into the tarmac breaking heavy police cordon. Police with the help of Awami League leaders was able to maintain order and discipline in the airport. The people at the tarmac surrounded a Biman Fokker aircraft mistaking it to be carrying Hasina. Police had to resort to a mild lathi-charge when some people were attempting to Biman Boeing aircraft at the tarmac. [as published]

After the Indian Airlines air craft stopped at the tarmac a truck with Awami League (Hasina) leaders went near the aircraft, Sheikh Hasina stepped into the truck and no gangway was used.

With the sight of the plane carrying Hasina people at the airport started shouting slogans 'Welcome Hasina' Joy Bangla. She travelled by the same truck followed by procession of hundreds of buses, trucks cars and motor bikes to Banani graveyard where members of her family and other Awami League leaders are buried. She offered fateha at the graveyard and later moved to Sher-e-Banglanagar to address the mass reception.

Normal traffic in the airport road from Farm gate area was disrupted for about four hours in the afternoon.

While addressing the reception Sheikh Hasina said that she would lay down her life for implementation of her father's ideals and establishment of democracy. In a choked voice she said that she had lost everything and she had nothing else to lose.

She said the Awami League (Hasina) supporters have expressed their love for Bangabandhu by electing her the party chief. She urged all to consider her as a party worker not as a leader, as a sister not as the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Criticising the government policy Awami League (Hasina) chief said that price of commodities was rising gradually, rich were getting richer, and majority of people in the country were living below poverty level, law and order situation has deteriorated, Freedom Fighters were being killed. She said the anti liberation forces were active in the country. She called upon people to safeguard the independence with the same spirit the people had shown during the liberation war.

Mrs. Hasina, however, did not mention anything regarding the Indian invasion of South Talpatty Island and Farakka problem.

Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil member of the Presidium of the party presided over the reception. In his speech he said that they would implement the Four Principles and economic policy of Bangabandhu in the country. He further said that Awami League (Hasina) would never compromise with the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his colleagues. Trial of the killers will be held, he said.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of the party, in his short speech thanked people from farflung areas for according reception to Hasina.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed, Organising Secretary of the party said that from today the party's struggle had started with the arrival of Hasina.

CSO: 4220/7851a

HASINA ADDRESSES AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS, WORKERS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League (H) Chairman Sheikh Hasina on Monday urged her party workers to organise the party unitedly for materialising the dream of "Bangabandhu" for an exploitation-free society.

Addressing the party leaders and workers at the central office of the party, Sheikh Hasina said that a well-disciplined organisation was a must to materialise the dream of "Bangabandhu". She said that she considered herself as a worker, not a leader of Awami League. Bangabandhu, she said was the leader of all in the party and he undertook programmes for establishing an exploitation-free society. For this, she added, her father was killed by the imperialists.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of Awami League (H) introduced the Presidents, General Secretaries and other leaders of different district units of the party to Sheikh Hasina at the party central office Monday morning. Members of the Presidium and Secretariat of the party were present on the occasion, [as published] a Press release of the party said.

Awami League Chairman Sheikh Hasina visited the Central Shaheed Minar, National Mausoleum at Savar, the National Memorial for Shaheed Intellectuals at Mirpur and the mazars of Sher-e-Bangla and Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy on Monday and offered fateha.

She left for Tungipara in the evening to visit the mazar of her late father 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Awami League Chairman returned home on Sunday afternoon from Calcutta after six-year asylum in India.

CSO: 4220/7856

AWAMI LEAGUE'S HASINA INTERVIEWED IN NEW DELHI

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 p 1

[Article by Reazuddin Ahmed: "Hasina Expresses Gratitude to India"]

[Text] New Delhi, May 13--Mrs Hasina Sheikh the newly elected Chairman of Bangladesh Awami League who is due to return to Dacca on May 17 next from her asylum here in an interview with me today parried questions on Talpatti and Parakka. She, however, indicated that she might give her observations on these issues, on return to Dacca.

In an interview with the HINDUSTAN TIMES published on May 10 the AL chairman expressed her deep sense of gratitude for Indian help during Bangladesh War of Liberation. Mrs Hasina in her interview recalled that India had given shelter to millions of people from Bangladesh at the time of Liberation War and 'we should not forget it.'

Speaking about the leadership crisis her party is currently facing following the joining of some pro Moscow elements, Mrs Hasina said that she would try to resolve the dispute between the genuine Awami Leaguers and the pro Moscow forces. She said that she was also aware of those people in the party who had joined the cabinet of Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed after the coup in August 1975. Talking to me at her Pandra Road residence Mrs Hasina briefly outlined the future course of action to be pursued by her party. She said that she would work for the establishment of BAKSALI principles which were the ideals of her late father.

She said that she would return to Dacca by Indian Airlines via Calcutta on May 17. When asked whether her return to Bangladesh on May 17 was final or there was possibility of any further shifting of dates she said 'all depends on Khwaja Baba in whose care I am here.'

Mr Korban Ali and Mr Abdus Samad Azad, members of the Awami League presidium representing two views who came here yesterday separately conferred with the young AL chief. On her return to Dacca Mrs Hasina will stay with her youngest paternal aunt, Mrs Syed Hossain, wife of the retired Additional Secretary of establishment division.

Mr Abdul Monem Sarkar, a new entrant to Awami League from pro Moscow National Awami Party is here for the last two weeks. He is reported to have met Mrs Hasina, Mr P. N. Haksar former principal secretary to Mrs Indira Gandhi and many other Indian politicians.

Our Dacca Staff Correspondent adds: Sheikh Hasina, President of Awami League (Hasina) will leave for Tungipara on May 18 and will perform zearat of the najar of her father late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on May 10. A milad mahfil and special prayer will be held on May 20 at Tungipara which Awami League (H) President will attend, says a party Press release.

She will also attend a civic reception on May 21 at Gopalganj Stadium organised by the Gopalganj District Unit of the party. It may be mentioned that she is scheduled to arrive Dacca on May 17 from Delhi.

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE-M CONDEMNS NEWSMEN'S ASSASSINATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan) in its public meeting at Baital Mukarram on Friday condemned the killing of Sramik League leader Abdur Rahman and journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal, deterioration of law and order situation and price hike of commodities.

Leaders of the party in their speech held the government responsible for deterioration of law and order situation, economy. They called upon all political parties to unitedly take steps for establishment of rule of law in the country.

The meeting was presided over by Mr Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, President of the party's city unit, Party President Mr Mizanur Rahman Choudhury addressed it as chief guest. The meeting was also addressed by party Senior Vice-President Mr Shamsul Huq, Vice-President Mr Moizuddin Ahmed, Organising Secretary Mr Nure Alam Siddiki, Labour Secretary Mr Khurshid Alam Choudhury, Mr M. A. Reza, General Secretary of Jubo League (Siddiki), Mr Sudhir Kumar Hazra, party's Central Committee member Mr Mohitul Islam Choudhury (Curzon), General Secretary of the city unit and Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, President of Chhatra League (Bhutto).

Mr Mizanur Rahman Choudhury said that the present government cannot deny the responsibility of its failure to check the deterioration of law and order situation. He said that the report of the enquiry committee into the bomb explosion in public meeting on May 23 last year has not yet been published and there was no news of any arrest in this connection. He added that news of killings is coming out daily in newspapers. He observed that it was apparent from the situation that a preparation for a civil war in the country was on. He said such a situation was created before the imposition of Martial Law during Pakistan period.

The AL(M) leader further said that Jamaat leader Golan Azam was allowed to come to Bangladesh and was engaged in organising communal politics. He said that clash between Freedom Fighters and non-Freedom Fighters were created and was widening gradually.

Mr Choudhury also said that the rise in price of essentials after the recent rain has caused further fall in valuation of Taka. The Awami League (M) chief called upon all democratic forces to unite to establish democratic government and a welfare state.

Mr Shamsul Huq, a former Minister in AL Cabinet and AL(M) Vice President, said that every day innocent people were being killed, police association and civil servants association was issuing statement against each other breaking all norms. He said that it is evident from the situation that a chaotic condition was prevailing in the country now.

AL(M) Vice President further said that the so-called development in economy of the country became clear from the report of Bangladesh Bank. He said the valuation of Taka came down to only 18 paisa.

He said despite this condition of the country the Head of the State was undertaking tours abroad regularly. He said people understands that the Head of State was going abroad to seek help. He urged all to unite sinking all ideological differences to establish Rule of Law in the country.

Mr Nure Alam Siddiki said that the government should have resigned after the killing of labour leader Abdur Rahman and journalist Ferdaus Alam Dulal, if it had any respect for democratic values.

Demanding trial and punishment for this killing the Awami League (M) leader said that otherwise the people will feel that the ruling party had a hand in this killing.

He observed that the government failed to solve the Farakka problem and protect the country's interest in south Talpatty. He also held that the controversy between Freedom Fighters and non Freedom Fighters would lead the country to a disaster.

CSO: 4220

AWAMI LEAGUE OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TALPATTY INCIDENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Tungipara, (Faridpur) May 20: Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) General Secretary Mr Abdur Razzak today expressed his concern over the news that India had landed its troops on South Talpatty island.

In a statement to the press here he said, his party believed that the problem of South Talpatty island should be solved through bilateral negotiation in the spirit of neighbourly and friendly relation and in keeping with international law and conventions.

He said that the incident would not only create adverse reaction and tension among the masses of the two countries but also strengthen the hands of those who wanted to undo the neighbourly and friendly relations between Bangladesh and India.

He said that as in the past, his party would continue to fight for safeguarding national interests for all times to come.

The Awami League (Hasina) General Secretary said that the government had not only failed to emancipate the people economically and politically, but also failed to develop good neighbourly and friendly relations in demarkating [as published] borders with neighbouring countries by protecting national interests. This was the outcome a foreign policy of appeasement he alleged. [as published]

He urged upon the people to remain cautious so that the South Talpatti island incident could not be used by any quarters for political ends by sacrificing the interests of the nine crore people of the country.

He urged the government to immediately inform the people in detail about the South Talpatti issue.

AL-PP

BSS adds: Meanwhile Mr Asaduzzaman Khan, MP Leader of the Opposition on Wednesday strongly condemned the unilateral occupation of the newly emerged South Talpatty island in Bangladesh waters by Indian troops.

In a statement Mr Khan said that the Awami League (Hasina) Parliamentary Party in a meeting held on Wednesday at the Committee Room of the Jatiya Sangsas strongly

demanded immediate withdrawal [as published] of the Indian troops from the Bangladesh area.

The Awami League (H) Parliamentary Party in a resolution condemning the unilateral Indian act said that the landing of Indian troops on the Bangladesh island before final decision could be reached on the question through bilateral negotiations was a gross violation of all international laws and the principles of coexistence.

Strongly protesting 'such acts' of India the resolution demanded immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from the Bangladesh territory.

CSO: 4220/7861

MORE REACTION TO SOUTH TALPATTY INCIDENT REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Condemnation by leaders of political parties and student organisations of the landing of Indian naval forces in South Talpatty island and demand for pullout of Indian forces continued for the second day on Monday.

Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in a statement issued to the Press on Monday expressed surprise at the landing of Indian military personnel on Bangladesh island of South Talpatty and the presence of Indian warships there. The people of Bangladesh firmly believe that the problems relating to South Talpatty would be solved through discussions, joint survey and mutual understanding between the two neighbouring countries and not by using force, the statement added.

The Statement expressed the hope that the Government of India would soon realise this truth and remove their frigates, military men, all equipment, recently built settlements and Indian flag from South Talpatty. Only then proper neighbourly relations and the just principles will be reflected, the statement added.

In a separate statement issued jointly by Mr. Khalequzzaman Khan Dudu, Organising Secretary and Sheikh Shaukat Hossain Nilu, Agriculture Secretary of BNP strongly condemned the landing of Indian troops on South Talpatty. The statement called upon the people of Bangladesh to face the Indian aggression by forging greater national unity. The BNP leaders appealed to the world conscience to condemn the Indian aggression and take effective steps in this regard.

The Jubo Muslim League (Sabur) held a rally at Baitul Mukarram on Monday to protest the landing of Indian forces. Later, a procession was brought out which went up to Road No. 2 of Dhanmondi Residential Area. Leaders of the organisation handed over a memorandum to the Indian High Commission in Dacca.

The United Peoples Party brought out a procession on Monday to voice their indignation over the Indian aggressive act. A delegation submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commission condemning the act.

The Democratic Chhatra League held a protest rally at Baitul Mukarram on Monday. The rally expressed surprise over the delay in publication of the news of Indian action after seven days.

Mr. Abul Kashem, President and Mr. Saifur Rahman, General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, in a joint statement expressed surprise at the sudden "naked aggression by India when attempts were being made to settle the Farakka and border problems through bilateral talks". They said "The version of the Indian Foreign Ministry in this regard was provocative. They also held that the Indian version was motivated and sad. [as published]

The Jubo Dal leaders said "this type of Indian aggression [as published] was significant" on the eve of the arrival of Sheikh Hasina whom they termed as an Indian agent to Bangladesh.

They urged the people to unitedly resist the aggression.

Mr. Khan Sabur, President of Muslim League, observed that the Indian act was against any form of international norm and the policy of peaceful coexistence. He held that by landing Indian naval forces in South Talpatty island India has virtually resorted to attack on our sovereignty. He urged upon the Government to raise the issue at the United Nations to restore our right on the island.

The Muslim League issued instructions to all its units to stage demonstration against this act of India.

The central committee of Jamat-e-Islami at its meeting on Monday condemned the aggressive act of India. It drew the attention of the international community to this issue.

The convening committee of the Jatiya Janata Party in its meeting on Monday expressed grave concern over the presence of armed Indians in South Talpatty island. Simultaneously the committee criticised the Government for publishing the news after one week of the incident.

Mr. Abu Naser Khan Bhashani and Mr. Abdus Sobhan, Chairman and General Secretary of National Awami Party (Naser) in a joint statement condemned the Indian act. They held that this was a blow to the sovereignty of Bangladesh. The NAP (Naser) will hold a protest rally at 4 p.m. on May 21 at Baitul Mukarram.

Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, President and Mr. Abdus Samad, General Secretary of Gano Azadi League in a joint statement held the presence of Indian naval vessel and armed personnel in South Talpatty an integral part of Bangladesh was an aggression by India. They demanded immediate withdrawal of Indian forces from the area.

Kazi Manjur, Secretary of Unmesh Shahitya Sangskriti Sangsad in a statement said that through annexation of Talpatty island the Indians have proved their aggressive designs. They urged the intellectuals [as published] to protest this aggressive act.

Major (Retd.) M. A. Jalil and Mr A. S. M. Abdur Rab President and General Secretary of Jatiya Samijtantrik Dal, Mr Haider Akbar Khan Rano, General Secretary and Mr Rashed Khan Menon MP central Committee member of Workers Party Mr Siddiqur Rahman First Secretary and Mr. Nirmal Sen, a central committee member of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal in a joint statement condemned Indian aggression.

Expressing concern over vile campaign against Bangladesh along with this aggressive [as published] act the leaders said that it was a planned attempt to create tension in this region.

They demanded of the withdrawal of armed forces and naval vessels and solution to the problem through negotiation.

Leaders of Jatiya Ganotantrik Party President and General Secretary of city unit of Democratic League, leaders of city unit of Islamic Party, General Secretary of Jami'at Ulema-e-Islam, and employees Holy Family Red Cross Hospital in separate statements condemned the Indian act.

The Jatiya Sanajtantrik Dal will hold a rally at 10 a.m. today (Tuesday) at Baitul Mukarram to protest the massing of Indian troops at South Talpatty island. Later the party will stage a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in Dacca.

The Bangladesh Labour Party will also hold a rally at 5 p.m. today (Tuesday) at Baitul Mukarram. Later, a protest procession will be brought out.

The Dacca metropolitan unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh will hold a rally and bring out a protest march today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m. at Baitul Mukarram in protest against the Indian aggression on South Talpatty.

Chittagong

BSS from Chittagong says: People belonging to different shades of public opinion in Chittagong strongly condemned the landing of Indian uniformed personnel on Bangladeshi [as published] territory of South Talpatty.

Bitterly criticising such unilateral act of provocation by Indian authority they said that this had clearly proved the expansionist attitude of India towards its neighbours.

They also presented the Indian rejection to Bangladesh demand for withdrawal of its naval ship and men and materials from the Moore Island of the Bay of Bengal.

Mr Faruk-e-Azam member of the Secretariat of the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad, the Conveners of Chittagong Sadar North South and Metropolitan Unit Commands of Mukti-joddhas Sangsad in a joint Press statement in Chittagong on Monday urged upon the Indian Government to withdraw its troops from Bangladeshi territory. They also called upon the people to be united to resist such aggression against our territorial sovereignty.

The Chittagong Metropolitan branch of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said the Indian act was a complete violation of the agreement signed between Bangladesh and India on mutual cooperation and understanding. They called upon the Indian Government to come forward with an open heart to solve the problem.

Among others, Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU)fi [as published] different student organisations and Chhatra Sangsads of various educational institutions condemned the steps taken by Indian Government in connection with Bangladeshi island of South Talpatty.

TEXT OF 16 MAY STATEMENT ON SOUTH TALPATTY ISLAND

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 May 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] Bangladesh Government on Saturday expressed complete surprise at the landing of uniformed personnel from an Indian naval ship on the South Talpatty island late last week and requested New Delhi to withdraw its naval ships remove men and material including the flag from the disputed island forthwith reports BSS.

The Indian Government had also been asked to desist from such unilateral and provocative actions in the future a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Dacca Saturday afternoon.

The Bangladesh Government also requested the Government of India to conduct a point survey immediately with a view to resolving this problem peacefully and without further delay in a spirit of understanding cooperation and good neighbourliness in accordance with its commitments.

The Foreign Office statement referred to the agreement reached between the two Foreign Ministers last year for settling the problem of ownership of the Talpatty island peacefully at an early date through further discussion after study of additional information.

In the circumstances the statement said the Government of Bangladesh was taken completely by surprise when an Indian naval ship "Sandhayak" with helicopter and some personnel in 'Khaki' uniform on board was observed in between the clump in the Bangladesh territory and South Talpatty island on May 9 1981. This ship went to South Talpatty island and landed some of these uniformed personnel the statement said adding some huts and tents one aerial mast and one pole bearing Indian flag were also seen erected on the island.

Such an unwarranted and unilateral action on the part of Indian Government the Foreign Office statement said was a clear violation of the agreement reached between the two governments to seek a peaceful resolution of the problem at an early date. Such action was also a violation of Bangladesh territory since the Indian ship was positioned in the estuary of the Raimangal river an internal river of Bangladesh.

Accordingly the statement said a strong protest was lodged with the Government of India in a note of May 11 and the Government of India was requested to withdraw

the ship from Bangladesh territorial waters and also to remove its men and materials from the island which had hitherto remained unoccupied.

Following is the text of the statement released in Dacca on Saturday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ownership of the newly emerged island(s) (New Moore/South Talpatty/Purbasha) at the estuary of the border river Hariashanga between Bangladesh and India has been claimed both by Bangladesh and India as forming part of their respective territories.

In the interest of good neighbourly relations Bangladesh proposed a joint survey to dispel any misgivings about the rightful ownership of this island. The Indian Prime Minister agreed to such a joint survey as proposed by Bangladesh during his visit to Dacca in April, 1979. This commitment about the joint survey was confirmed by him when the Deputy Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on him in May, 1979.

In August 1980 during the visit of the Indian External Affairs Minister to Dacca, the matter was again taken up. During the discussion between the Indian External Affairs Minister and the Bangladesh Foreign Minister it was agreed "that after study of additional information exchanged between the two governments further discussion would take place with a view to settling it peacefully at an early date."

While Bangladesh supplied the Indian side with data including satellite imageries clearly establishing Bangladesh's claim to these islands, the promised additional information from the Indian side was still being awaited.

In the circumstances, the Government of Bangladesh was taken completely by surprise when an Indian naval ship "Sandhayak" with helicopter and some personnel in 'Khaki' uniformed on board was observed in between the clump in Bangladesh territory and South Talpatty island on the 9th May 1981. This ship went to South Talpatty Island and landed some of these uniformed personnel. Some huts and tents, one aerial mast and one pole bearing Indian flag were also seen erected on the island.

Such an unwarranted and unilateral action on the part of the Government of India was a clear violation of the agreement reached between the two governments to seek a peaceful resolution of the problem at an early date and also a violation of Bangladesh territory since the Indian ship was positioned in the estuary of the Rajmangal river an internal river of Bangladesh. Accordingly a strong protest was lodged with the Government of India in a note dated the 11th May, 1981 and the Government of India requested to withdraw the ship from Bangladesh territorial waters and also to remove its men and materials from the island which had hitherto remained unoccupied.

Apparently with a view to justifying its illegal action Government of Indian [as published] its reply dated May 13 1981 accused Bangladesh Navy of provocative activities in the area. As pointed out in Bangladesh's reply to this note this accusation was totally baseless since Bangladesh Navy boats in the area were operating well within Bangladesh waters.

However Government of India admitted in the same reply that this Indian Navy ship "Sandhayak" was anchored north-east off New Moore (South Talpatty) island which was wrongly claimed to be Indian waters. In fact north-east of South Talpatty is the estuary of the Raimangal river an internal river of Bangladesh. As such the Indian Naval ship is actually anchored in Bangladesh waters. In the meantime a petty class Indian frigate "INS Andaman (P74)" has also joined "INS Sandhayak". This tantamounts to further escalation of the provocative situation.

Though Indian Ministry of External Affairs in its note dated 13th May 1981, reiterated the intention of the Government of India to exchange further data and to hold further discussion based on the understanding reached between the two Foreign Ministers for the peaceful resolution of this problem, there was clearly a contradiction between such declared intention and actual action in mounting what amounted to a military operation on the South Talpatty island and its adjoining areas.

The unfounded allegations of provocation on the part of Bangladesh were evidently put forward on receiving Bangladesh protest as a cover for her illegal action. The fact that it is India and not Bangladesh which landed armed personnel on the disputed island should leave no room for doubt as to who was responsible for the provocation.

In another note the Bangladesh Government has pointed out the above facts to the Government of India and requested it once again to withdraw the Indian Navy ships from Bangladesh waters, remove men and materials including the flag forthwith from the disputed island & to desist from such unilateral and provocative action in the future. Bangladesh Government also requested the Government of India to conduct a joint survey immediately with a view to resolving this problem peacefully and without further delay in a spirit of understanding cooperation and good neighbourliness in accordance with its commitments.

CSO: 4220/7851

POLITICAL, STUDENT LEADERS CONDEMN TALPATTY LANDING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Leaders of different political parties and student organisations on Sunday condemned the landing of Indian naval forces on South Talpatty island. They termed it as an aggression of Bangladesh territory and an attack on the sovereignty of Bangladesh.

The leaders said that India had breached the treaty of peaceful co-existence signed earlier between the two neighbouring countries.

Demanding withdrawal of Indian forces, the leaders said that India had nakedly demonstrated its policy of expansionism by invading South Talpatty which is an integral part of Bangladesh.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman and Mr. Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Convener and Joint Convener respectively of Bangladesh Muktiyoddah Sangsad Central Convening Committee, in a joint statement condemned the landing of Indian naval forces on South Talpatty island. They termed it as a provocative act and policy of expansionism and the aggression was a direct threat to the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

They said that the Freedom Fighters and the freedom loving people of Bangladesh would never tolerate such an attack on the sovereignty of the country. They said that the Freedom Fighters would be compelled to give befitting reply if India did not withdraw its forces from the island.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rhaman and Sadeque Hossain Khoka urged all the Freedom Fighters and patriots to forge a strong unity at this critical moment. They urged the Government to take appropriate measures against this Indian action.

Major M. A. Jalil and Mr. A. S. M. Abdur Rob President and General Secretary respectively of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) expressed their grave concern over the landing of Indian forces on South Talpatty island. They demanded immediate withdrawal of Indian forces from the island and urged India to settle the dispute mutually and peacefully.

Mr. Manindra Nath Sarkar, President of Bangladesh Hindu Juba Kalyan Samity in a statement expressed his concern over the landing of Indian naval forces on South Talpatty island. He said such an action by Indian Government was contrary to the

policy of peaceful coexistence. He urged India to withdraw forces from the island.

The United People's Party at a meeting of its Executive Committee condemned landing of Indian forces on South Talpatty and deployment of Indian warships at Raimangal river of Khulna. The United People's Party will bring out a procession at 4 p.m. today (Monday) and will stage a demonstration in front of Indian Embassy in protest against the Indian action.

Mrs. Amena Begum and Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman, Convener of Farakka O Simanta Hamla Pratirodh Committee and chief of the Krishak Sramik Party respectively in a joint statement expressed their grave concern over the landing of Indian troops on South Talpatty island. They said Bangladesh border now under Indian aggression. Demanding withdrawal of Indian forces from the island, they called upon the people to be united at this moment against the Indian aggression. They also urged the Government and to call the political parties to adopt a common programmes against this Indian action. [as published]

Dacca City Jubo Muslim League will hold a public rally at 10 a.m. today (Monday) at Baitul Mukharram in protest against the invasion of South Talpatty island by India. After the rally it will bring out a procession and hand over a memorandum to the High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh.

The leaders of the parties who issued statement condemning the Indian action were, Mr. Nagen Sarkar, General Secretary of Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal, Syed Sirajul Huda, President, Bangladesh Jatiya Dal Prof. Momenul Huq and Advocate Shahidul Islam, President and General Secretary respectively of Democratic Jubo Front, (M) Moulana Abdul Matin, chief of the Bangladesh Labour Party, Mr. Farmanullah Khan and Masihul Islam President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh Islamic Party Maulana Abdur Rahim President of Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Maulana A. K. M. Yousuf and Mr. Shamsur Rahman Acting President Naib e Amir and General Secretary respectively of Jamat e Islami Bangladesh leaders of Ganotantrik Party Mr. Nurul Huq Mehdi Convener Gonotantrik Karmi Shibir Bangladesh Chhatra Shakti Gonotantrik Chhatra League and Bangladesh Islamic Chhatra Shakti.

In a joint statement issued by the President and the Acting General Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan) Mr Mianzur Rahman Chowdhury and Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed on Sunday expressed deep concern at the pressure created by India on Bangladesh. They stated that India's landing of troops on the islands was a naked aggression. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the Indian troops from the island and urged the Government to continue the efforts to solve the issue through negotiations.

The President and General Secretary of the Bhashani Smriti Sangsad Mr Nazmul Haq Nannu and Mr. Md. Khorshed Alam condemned the presence of the Indian troops on the Talpatty islands. They observed that when the agents of the Indian expansionists were out to create disturbances in the country in different ways. [as published] They urged the Government to raise the issue in all international forums. They also asked the Government to activate the Muslim countries against the naked aggression by India.

Mr. Golam Sarwar Milon Convener of Preparatory Committee of central conference of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal condemned in strong terms the naked Indian aggression of South Talpatty island of Bangladesh.

The leaders of Dacca City Unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra [as published] Dal condemned the landing of Indian troops on the island.

In a statement Mr. Mohammad Habibullah Mr. Mashiur Rahman Babui Mr. Jamal Sharif Hiru and Mr Tofael Ahmed Maya President Vice-President General Secretary and Organising Secretary urged the student community to forge unity to build resistance against the Indian aggression.

BSS adds: In a Press statement, Farakka and Border Aggression Resistance Committee expressed grave concern at the landing of Indian armed forces on the South Talpatty Island and termed the incident as 'an act of aggression.'

The statement also urged the government as well as different patriotic parties and groups to sink their differences at this hour of crisis and demanded that the government should immediately call an allparty meeting to work out a strategy to foil the Indian expansionist designs.

The joint statement of the committee was signed by its convener Mrs. Amina Begum.

Mr. A S M Solaiman, President of the Krishak Sramik Party in a statement expressed concern at the landing of Indian marine forces on South Talpatty Island and described it as a unilateral action' on the part of the Indian Government endangering the peace and stability of the region. [as published]

Mr. Solaiman demanded that instead of wasting any time, the issue should be raised in the United Nations for just and peaceful settlement.

Moulana Abdul Matin chief of Bangladesh Labour Party in a Press statement expressed deep concern at the landing of Indian forces on South Talpatty island and maneuvering of Indian navy ships at the estuary of Raimangal river.

He described it as an act of aggression and a blow on the sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh by India and demanded immediate withdrawal of Indian forces and naval ships from Bangladesh territory.

Rallies Today

Two political organisations will organise rallies separately today (Monday) to protest the forcible occupation of the disputed South Talpatty Island by India violating the international principle of co-existence.

The first protest rally will be held at Baitul Mokarram square at 10 a.m. today (Monday) under the auspices of the Dacca City Jubo Muslim League (Youth front of Bangladesh, Muslim League), according to a Press release.

Giving a call to the party workers to join the rally Mr. A. N. M. Abed, Convener of the Jubo Muslim League said a procession will be held to the Indian High Commission to hand over a protest note there.

The second protest procession will start from the United Peoples Party (UPP) office at 4 p.m. to be followed by a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in Dacca.

The decision to organise the demonstration was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of UPP held on Sunday with the party chief Kazi Jafar Ahmed, in the chair.

The UPP chief appealed on behalf of the party to the patriotic forces to join todays (Monday) [as published] demonstration organised by his party.

CSO: 4220/7851a

BANGLADESH-ROMANIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETS IN DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Romania Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation reviewed the global economic situation and discussed the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries at its fourth session which began in Dacca Sunday morning reports BSS.

Both sides agreed to work out a long term economic cooperation agreement, an official source said at the end of Sunday's first ministerial level Joint Commission meeting in Dacca.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Saifur Rahman, led the 15 member Bangladesh delegation at the Joint Commission meeting while the visiting nine member Romanian delegation was led by the Minister for Machine Building, Mr. Ioan Avram.

Earlier in the morning, the Romanian Minister for Machine Building, Mr. Ioan Avram arrived in Dacca from Athens on a four day visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by the Finance Minister, Mr. Saifur Rahman.

In his opening statement at the Joint Commission meeting the leader of Bangladesh delegation, Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman put forward a difficult balance of payment position facing the country and stressed the need for increased economic assistance in the context of the Second Five Year Plan.

The Romanian Minister, Mr. Avram, said that his country, which is also launching a Five Year Plan soon, was also equally a victim of energy crisis.

The Joint Commission, the source said, reviewed the progress of implementation of projects including the textile sector. It was agreed that the Romanian financial assistance would also be utilised for both the public and private sectors the source said.

The Bangladesh Romania Joint Commission set up a number of working groups to cover the various fields for cooperation between the two countries.

The source said the working groups which met separately in the afternoon would continue their meetings this (Monday) morning.

Some of the areas of cooperation between Bangladesh and Romania, the source said, would be in the petro chemical oil and gas exploration shipping, engineering industry and agro based industry including poultry.

The Commission will resume its Session on Tuesday.

Earlier on arrival from Athens Mr. Ioan Avram told newsmen at the Dacca Airport that "more areas of economic cooperation" between his country and Bangladesh would be explored at the fourth Joint Commission meeting.

He said Romania was already assisting Bangladesh in a number of sectors including textile industry.

Mr. Avram said the ground for further economic and technical cooperation between Bangladesh and Romania was prepared during President Ziaur Rahman's visit to Bucharest. The understanding reached between the Presidents of Bangladesh and Romania created a "solid ground" in fulfilling our common efforts for greater cooperation and friendship.

The last session of the Joint Commission was held in Bucharest in July, 1979.

CSO: 4220/7851a

BANGLADESH DELEGATE SPEAKS AT CARACAS MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] May 17:--The Minister of State for Commerce, Government of Bangladesh Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui today expressed the optimism that the developing countries were now in a position to solve many of their problems through collective endeavour, reports BSS.

Speaking on the fourth day of the five day conference of the Least Developed Countries in the Venezuelan capital Mr. Siddiqui said great potentialities exist for making fuller and effective exploitation of the potential complementarities of our economies. He said the developing countries together could promote a self-reliant economic system to our common advantage.

Mr. Siddiqui who is leading a five-member Bangladesh delegation to the high level conference on economic cooperation among the developing countries said, by fostering greater unity among ourselves as partners in a mutually supportive system of economic relationships, we would cease to be totally dependent on the developed countries. He said the developing countries have tremendous scope for cooperation in the areas of agriculture, trade, communication and sharing of vital resources like water and energy and a host of other fields.

Describing the Caracas conference an important landmark in the history of the developing countries in the joint endeavour to find mutually advantageous [as published] solutions to their struggle for economic development the Minister said the meeting was highly significant because it was taking place at a time when the North-South talks on global negotiations we are in the doldrums. [as published] He said Bangladesh attached great importance to the conference and hoped that the deliberations from the meetings would serve as a key stone for future negotiations with the developed countries.

Lamenting the existing pattern of international economic decision-making Mr Siddiqui said we the developing countries were in a relatively weak bargaining position. He said till now our economies were vulnerable to external condition causing our people to suffer and our countries strain under the burden of anachronistic economic order of the colonial era.

Mr Siddiqui cautioned that no one should underestimate the intrinsic strength of the developing countries particularly in the energy sector. He maintained that we should therefore exploit the full potential available amongst us so as to become more self-reliant.

Referring to Bangladesh's initiative for regional cooperation in South-Asian region the Minister said the move was intended to fully exploit the vast potentialities through collective endeavour for the benefit of one-fifths of the world population. [as published] He said our common cause of attaining a better bargaining position with the North underscored the imperative need to strengthen the economies of the Group of 77.

CSO: 4220/7851a

GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF PROBLEMS WITH INDIA SCORED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 May 81 p 1

[Text] A number of political and other organisations on Saturday observed Farakka Resistance Day and criticised the Government for what they called its soft attitude in handling various issues of national concern with India, reports BSS.

On the day five years ago late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani had led a long march to protest India's unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters through Farakka Barrage.

Farakka-O Shimanta Hamla Protirodh Committee (Committee of resistance against Farakka and border attacks) held a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram in the afternoon in observance of the day.

Speakers at the meeting said that a just and political solution to the Ganges waters sharing problem could be found only through cooperation of Nepal, and India and Bangladesh with the support and participation of the United Nations and the World Bank.

Mrs. Amena Begum, Convener of the committee, presided over the meeting. The meeting in a resolution said that "India wants to turn eight districts of Bangladesh into a desert to cripple its economy".

In another resolution the meeting called for foiling the "Indian conspiracy" to cripple Bangladesh's economy through Brahmaputra-Ganges feeder canal, and barrages on the Gumti-Brahmaputra and other common rivers.

All the speakers vehemently opposed the idea of Brahmaputra Ganges link canal proposed by India.

The meeting demanded restoration of Bangladesh's authority on the South Talpatty Island.

The meeting urged for forging national unity and frustrating the designs of anti-Independence elements.

Mr. A. S. M. Sulaiman MP Mr. Abu Nasser Khan Bhashani and Mr. A. Sobhan spoke in the meeting.

CSO: 4220/7851

WRITER POINTS OUT WEAKNESSES IN TAX STRUCTURE

Dacca THE BANGALDESH OBSERVER in English 18, 19 May 81

[Article by Md. Hafizur Rahman]

[18 May 81 p 5]

[Text] All Governments need revenue to meet their essential expenditure and Bangladesh is no exception. The weakness of Bangladesh is that she has to depend largely on external aid and loan as the internal resources are not adequate to meet the ever increasing non-development and development expenditure. The framers of the policy had, therefore, to look for new sources of revenue in order that internal resources may meet progressively larger share of the total expenditure and dependence on the external resources may to that extent be reduced. To that end a number of new taxes were imposed and the rates of the existing taxes had been enhanced during the last budget session.

Propaganda had been made in some past months for improving tax collection and publicity was undertaken through television and press asking people to pay certain taxes by a certain date under threat of penalty. The house rent tax imposed in 1974 and later withdrawn under popular pressure and Urban Immovable Property Tax introduced in 1957 were the special targets.

A number of new offices have been set up and new officers have been recruited for improving tax collection as it was mentioned in the draft Second Five Year Plan that the inefficient tax administration was partly due to inadequacy of staff.

Recently, a few of the Hon'ble Ministers appeared in television to talk about the imperative necessity of augmenting internal resources. This has given rise to a fear that Government may be levying further taxes on the overtaxed sectors and it has been suggested in certain forums that care should be taken to ensure that the tax measures do not impair the incentive for work and saving and retard the growth of the economy which alone can help widen the tax base. The measures taken by the United States of America as well as India for tax collection in order to improve saving and investment may be quoted in support of these suggestions.

Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a symposium and suggested inter alia raising the exemption limit of personal tax to Taka 24,000/00, fixing income tax at 55% and corporate tax at 50% raising the limit of investment allowance and

upward adjustment of wealth tax and death duties. India Government has raised the exemption limit of personal tax to Taka 15,000/00 and if the usual conversion value of Taka is taken into consideration an exemption limit of Taka 24 000/00 is not unreasonable. Dacca Chamber has also mentioned about anomaly in customs duties which affect competitiveness of local products vis-a-vis [as published] imported products. The association of Income Tax Advisers have also recently met the Vice President and offered suggestions regarding tax laws.

In regard to the fiscal operations of the Government the Planning Commission pointed out certain imbalance and weakness in the tax structure. It was stated that though near about 60% of the GDP originates in Agriculture, very little direct tax is collected in that sector and a larger burden of direct tax falls on the urban sector.

The expert bodies have opined that the effective tax rate is higher in the urban sector than in the rural sector on account of the difference in the nature of tax imposed in the two sectors and the pattern of consumption and income between the rural and the urban sector.

The overwhelming dependence of the tax revenue on the foreign trade is also a source of weakness and instability. A larger import bill will bring a larger revenue, but that has to be financed at present nearly 60% by aid and loan, the continuance of which would depend on factors beyond the control of Government. Export duty is also a risky item as its continuance is dependent on how it affects competitiveness of exports, the expansion of which has been considered essential.

As the share of direct tax in the total tax revenue is about 16%, instability will continue unless this can be raised and the dependence on indirect tax reduced.

Higher direct tax revenue can only accrue when there is a large tax base viz level of personal and corporate incomes, their spread and concentration.

After the liberation all the important industries, irrespective of whether or not they were established by Bangladesh were nationalised and the policy had been to restrict the growth of private sector. Bulk of the foreign trade was also brought under public sector. This was a retrograde step in regard [as published] to the growth of entrepreneurship and of capital formation in the private sector and is responsible for the narrow tax base of personal and corporate income. The administration of nationalised industries has not been satisfactory both in regard to capacity utilization, profit earning and contribution to the exchequer. The jute industry alone cost the exchequer about 352 crore of Taka and the Planning Commission has termed the whole operation as loss financing. It is only recently that the Jute industry is reported to have improved the position. Regarding other industries, according to the Planning Commission the pre-tax profit of 168 crore of all the industries in nationalised sector is considered to be a poor show. Had all of these been in private management probably much more would have come to Government by way of taxes.

The Planning Commission has further observed that level of personal saving is low as the level of income is low. This could not be otherwise due to the restrictive

policy of Government in regard to the private sector. Besides, the real return on saving has been mostly negative on account of the high rate of price increase.

The management of the nationalised sector which is of monopolistic [as published] nature [as published] is no cost conscious which one finds in a competitive enterprises system with dominance of market economy and profits shown by them are generally at the cost of the consumers.

It is a welcome move that of late, Government have changed their policy and have been trying to encourage the private sector but it will take time to grow and produce results. [as published]

It has been noticed that though the GDP is estimated to increase 6.1%, the tax increase in the budget of 1980-81 has been of the order of 26% over that of the previous year. With the Agricultural Sector lightly taxed, there would naturally be greater pressure on the urban sector. It has been observed that ratio of tax revenue to GDP is low compared to other countries of similar economic development. If the ratio is sought to be increased by further taxing the overtaxed urban sector, it would destroy all incentive for work and to save and to invest as there would be very little to be saved and invested after paying the tax and meeting essential personal and maintenance expenditure. [as published]

While dealing with fiscal operations one cannot lose sight of the need for economy and austerity on which emphasis has been laid by the Planning Commission. It has been suggested that non-development expenditure should be kept under effective control. It has also been stated in the draft plan that the Administration has been overstaffed and there has been mal-distribution of staff.

The nondevelopment expenditure has increased at the rate of 21% every year since 1972-73 even though the pay scales have not been raised in proportion to the increase in price level. This is mostly due to staff increase which does not appear to have been justified by the additional work load. With staff trimmed to genuine requirements, the Administration could cut down substantially non-development expenditure and consequently avoid excessive taxation as well as have more resources for development expenditure.

[19 May 81 pp 5, 6]

[Text] The Planning Commission has mentioned about rampant evasion of taxes and corruption and inefficiency in tax administration. About 3,00,000 taxable people are said to be outside the tax net. A huge amount of tax assessed is in arrears and most of these are said to be due to bad and delayed assessment and subject to appeal. There was absence of clear instructions and guidelines and assessment in many cases has been arbitrary. The Administration has also not been able to trap money earned by illegal trade such as trading in licence which was rampant some years ago, estimated to be more than 100 crores.

Evasion or avoidance of taxes in whatever manner it is classified, cannot take place if the tax administration is alert and honest. Genuine efforts to bring all the evaders under the tax net would have reduced the necessity of taxing over taxed sectors. As regards motive for evasion arguments and counter arguments can be advanced. Neither crimes nor corruption can be eliminated altogether by

legislative measures, but honest and efficient administration can reduce their magnitude. Similarly moderate taxes which ensure a reasonable net return on investment naturally reduces the motive to seek loopholes for evasion.

There is another item of leakage of customs revenue due to smuggling of Indian goods of various types, the predominant of which is Textiles. It has also the effect of depressing the exchange value of taka. Indian Sarees and other types of Indian made Textiles can be found almost in every home and all patriotic appeal to traders will have little effect. Though Bangladesh is trying to develop sizeable Textile Industry, the flow of foreign goods will continue as Bangladesh Textile products are poor in quality and lack variety in textures, design and colour. Lack of competitiveness, as already mentioned, means lack of quality and cost consciousness. Both India and Pakistan have built up sizeable textile Industry and are well up in export market also as the industries were in the private sector. They used to devote time and money in research for production and quality goods of better texture, design and colour etc. and the mills used to compete with one another in the above respects. It is high time that Government should seriously think of denationalising the entire textile Industry and unless this is done, it is doubtful if it will be possible to stop the inflow of smuggled foreign textile. I am mentioning this as it has definite bearing on the growth taxable base in the private sector.

Such step along with disinvestment of other selected industries now in the public sector will have the following effects.

(a) it will be able to attract such illegally earned money as may still be afloat, (b) divert the wage earners money from land speculation to production channel (c) provide additional resources to Government for development in the shape of the sale money, (d) widen the base of the personal and corporate tax, (e) reduce smuggling of foreign textiles by improving quality of local textiles and (f) reduce leakage of customs revenue and (g) improve exchange value of Taka. It will also have a deflationary effect by diverting the surplus money to productive channel.

In dealing with taxes on income from property which has been made special target of attack as if the house owners are the worst offenders in respect of tax evasion, it is found that Government policy and Government action in regard to housing are contradictory. On the one hand Government is anxious that private housing should expand for which provision has been made for loans on easy terms and tax holidays for a limited periods. [as published] On the other hand by over taxing the income from housing they are destroying the incentive for investment in this sector.

In a seminar organised by the Dacca University Nchitra forum recently at the University Teacher Student Centre, Mr. Mirza Golan Hafiz speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad called upon the private enterprises to come with well thought out plan for solving the acute housing problems in the country and Dr Fazlul Karim the State Minister for Public Works and Urban Development said that participation of the private sector is essential for solving the problem. This was natural. The Draft plan mentioned that Government has been able to provide housing for 4.3% of their employees. Those living in hired houses have to spend on average about 50% of their income on house rent. This has necessitated house rent subsidy of substantial amounts.

Government have themselves to hire private house for accommodating their offices as we find in almost all the cities. Over and above, houses are required for banks insurance companies and other industrial and commercial offices and their employees, as well as for diplomatic and other national and international organisations and their employees. This being the situation Government should have seriously thought about taxing the income from housing in a manner that does not impair the incentive for further investment in this sector and keep the taxation at a level that helps the intending investors to save and reinvest.

It must be pointed out that the net return from investment in housing compares very unfavourably with the net return for investment in business or industries. Under the present condition of high price of land and building materials, the net return after repayment of obligatory charges including taxes is negative. Businessmen do not normally block their capital on housing. Certain sections of people who had neither the time nor the resources to invest in business or industry and who had to make cities their places of living having been engaged in service and profession, invested their hard earned savings in housing to be used as residence or for letting out in order to supplement their income during old age after retirement. This is how cities have been built up and unless these persons came out for investment in housing in the different areas in the cities, there would have been a vacuum in regard to availability of residential and office accommodations. The number of commercial buildings built by businessmen is insignificant compared to residential houses built by low and middle income group people in all areas of sprawling cities. It is, therefore, also a human problem to see that pensioners and serving officers and professional people who have invested in housing are not deprived of their much needed additional earning as pensions and salaries are inadequate in these days of high prices.

To come brassestacks in regard to the problems in taxes on house rent income, it is found that there are five kinds of out go: (1) Land tax. (2) Municipal tax. (3) Income tax. (4) Urban Immovable properties tax. (5) Wealth Tax. There are again gain tax, gift tax and estate duty when possession passes to others by sale, gift or inheritance.

Besides these there are electricity, water and gas charges which though normally paid by the tenant in the rented houses have a bearing on the rental that can be charged. All these charges have been increased several times during the last few years and the present rates to say the least, are prohibitive: (1) Land tax has been increased. (2) Municipal tax which was a few years ago 7 1/2% of the annual valuation has been enhanced to 12% of the annual valuation though the services rendered have been reduced viz, water and sewerage have to be separately paid to the WASA. The responsibility of the Municipality is now restricted to the maintenance of the municipal roads and their lighting. Recently the Municipality has enhanced the valuation by 50 to 100% as a result of which a large amount of the rental goes in payment of municipal tax.

Income tax has been revised upwards by reducing the number of slabs from 13 to 9 and the tax on income about 1,00,000/- has been raised to 65% though in the schedule valid for 1978-79 and 1979-80 the ceiling for income up to 1,50,000/- was 50% up to 2,50,000/55% and on the amount higher than 2,50,000/- it was 60%. The enhanced rate takes away a large slice of the income. A suggestion to fix the repair allowance at 1/3 of the rental was not accepted by Government. In

this respect the suggestion made by income tax Advisors Association to fix repair charges at 1/4th deserves consideration.

Urban Immovable Property Tax:--This was imposed at a time when the Provincial Government had no source of revenue to reimburse them for the land development work to be undertaken at the inception of partition for expansion of the cities. That situation does no longer obtain and the Government have now all other sources except the municipal tax. Besides the development and expansion of cities is now the responsibility of the city development authorities in the principal cities and of the municipalities in other cities. They reimburse themselves by the sale of land. This should no longer find place in the taxation structure. It also off ends the fundamental principles of taxation viz there should not be multiple taxes on the same source of income.

Wealth Tax: This is a measure which has more a political complexion rather than a source of income. It was introduced in Pakistan in 1963 when there was a row that all the wealth of Pakistan was concentrated in 22 families. It never yielded substantial revenue. After liberation Bangladesh Government brought it in the statute book without caring to enquire in depth wheher the sitation was ripe for imposing such a tax. [as published] The wealth that was accumulated by non Bangalies either in the shape of Industries or commercial or residential houses passed into the hands of Government and till recently all possible steps had been taken to retard the growth of wealth in people's hands. During Pakistan time the exemption limit was 4 lakhs and if that is taken as the standard the limit should be 20 lakhs. The most sensible course in this respect would be to defer the tax for about ten years to allow wealth to grow but if for potitical [as published] reasons Government want to retain it the exemption limit should be revised upwards to bring it in line with the rise in the price index and the present basis of computation viz ten times the annual municipal valuation should not be disturbed. It is understood that the Taxation Commission also suggested sticking to this formula.

It is understood that tax on houses belonging to non resident Bangladeshi citizen has now been raised 60% of rental income and all persons who do not stay in Bangladesh for at least 180 days in a year are to be treated as non residents.

As we are encouraging our people to go abroad to work for other countries and earn and their remittances are important source of foreign exchange and as we also want our intellectuals to accept jobs in the international organisations so that our cases properly represented there the policy of taking away 60% of the income from houses which they or their wives may happen to own would be suicidal. To compel them or their wives whoever may own the house to come and stay in Bangladesh for 180 days in a year would compel them either to give up their job or sell their houses. Many of them have already been faced with this quandary. [as published]

Capital [as published] Gain Tax: Transfer of property by sale or gift is a normal process existing from the time the society became settled and landed property and houses became valuable possessions. It has been considered legitimate for Government to claim a share of the gains due to appreciation in value, but the entire difference between the cost of acquisition and the sale price is not for fortuitous. [as published] A part of is due to individuals

labour investment and foresight for which he should be given the benefit of retaining part of the gain. [as published]

It is understood that the provisions in the Finance Act, 1980-81 are not in consonance with the recommendation of the Taxation Commission in this respect. It is therefore urged that Government should consider reduction of the rate of this as suggested by the Dacca Chamber of Commerce.

Sale would be easy and straight forward and the cases of under valuation would be less if the rates are reasonably reduced. Otherwise undervaluation will continue most likely in collusion with the taxing authorities and threat of preemption [as published] will have little effect.

Gift Tax: The ceiling of gift tax also needs upward revision to bring it in line with the rise in prices of properties.

Regarding Estate duty, the universal demand is that one house in which the deceased lived and did not rent out should be tax free. It is understood that this was also the recommendation of the Taxation Commission. In regard to rented houses the exemption limit should be revised upwards as suggested by the Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

If Government really want more houses to be built in the private sector and, it appears that they do, as that is the only means of gradually solving the acute housing problem and bring down the rent, the tax level should be brought down in order that the investment in the sector may be worth while. Ultimately more revenue may accrue from this sector.

The other suggestions made in this paper also should be seriously considered if Government want to improve the direct tax base. If Government want cooperation of people in the matter of improvement of revenues, the representatives of tax payers chambers and other bodies affected by tax laws should be called for discussion [as published] and their views given due weight before decisions taken. The national interest will be served best if the interests of taxpayers and beneficiaries of taxes can be harmonised.

CSO: 4220/7854

MANZUR SPEECH AT 13 MAY CHITTAGONG MEETING NOTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 81 p 10

[Text] Chittagong, May 13--The Trend Setter, a socio cultural organisation held a seminar on the "Role of Intellectuals of Bangladesh" at the auditorium of local Shilpakala Academy on Sunday last.

The seminar presided over by Prof. Mohammad Ali of Chittagong University was addressed among others, by Major General M. A. Manzur, BU General Officers Commanding of 24 Infantry, Prof. Dr M. A. Gafur, Prof. Dr Mainuddin Khan, Mr Haroonur Rashid and Mr Sekandar Khan of Chittagong University, Syed Mansural Hoque, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, and Mr Ziaur Rahman, President of Trend Setters, Dr Eklashuddin of Chittagong University presented a paper on the subject of seminar.

The speakers at the seminar urged the intellectuals to uphold the cause of human value and morality and disseminate their goodness to the people.

The speakers observed that the intellectuals have vital role arouse social awakening and lead mankind for salvation. The intellectuals would analyse the human problems and show the people the ways for tiding over these problems, they added.

CSO: 4220

IRAQI VISITOR LEAVES, SEVEN AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 May 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and leader of the visiting high-powered delegation left Dacca on Sunday afternoon for home after a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh says BSS.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman and Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed saw him off at the Kurmitola International Airport.

During the visit Bangladesh and Iraq signed seven agreements.

The agreements are economic and technical cooperation a long term trade agreement, a two-year executive programme for cultural and scientific cooperation beginning July 1981, agreement for 8.75 million US dollars for Khulna cement clinker factory agreement for 7.5 million US dollars for Habigonj Ashuganj Gas Transmission Project [as published], memorandum of understanding to take 6000 skilled personnel and 150 instructor and memorandum of understanding on cooperation in fisheries sector.

Besides Iraq also extended another project loan of 30 million US dollars to Bangladesh and the projects of which will be submitted to Iraq later.

Later briefing the newsmen after signing of agreements the visiting leader of the delegation said the agreements would play a constructive role between the two friendly countries. He said fruitful results had been achieved in such a short time.

Mr Ramadhan said that his Government would see that the agreements were implemented for the benefit of the two peoples and the Governments.

He congratulated the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman for his efforts to building the country. The visit he said had helped us to know each other. He hoped that exchange of visits would take place in the future.

The first Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Hussein for the people of Bangladesh.

His Bangladesh counterpart Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed described his talks with the Iraqi leader as "very satisfactory" and expressed the hope that the bond of friendship between the two countries would be further cemented in years to come.

Mr Ahmed said Iraq was one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh and had provided assistance to rehabilitate the wartorn economy.

Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman State Minister for Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky and high Government officials were present on the occasion. While Mr Hasan Ali member of Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Trade Mr Mohammed Fadhel Hussain Minister of Housing Dr Abdul Amir Al Anbari President of Iraqi Fund of External Development and Iraqi Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr Arif Mohammad Ali Krim were also present.

CSO: 4220

COOPERATION TALKS WITH DENMARK REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 May 81 pp 1,16

[Text] Bangladesh is likely to receive a grant of about 545 million Danish kroner (about Tk 1365 million) from Denmark during the next five years, reports BSS.

The tentative figure of Danish grant came to be known on Tuesday on the concluding day of the five-day discussion on bilateral development cooperation between Bangladesh and Denmark.

Agreed minutes between the two countries providing Danish grant to Bangladesh were also signed on Tuesday.

Mr M. Mohiuddin, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance, and Mr Erno Olsen, Head of the Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Denmark, who led their respective sides during discussions also signed the agreed minutes.

The delegations successfully negotiated an interest-free Danish development loan of 80 million Danish Kroner (Taka 200 million). The loan comprises projects like road rollers, low-lift pump sets, postal wagon for the railways and a coastal oil tanker of 1000 tons. A further loan of 100 million Kroner (Taka 250 million) was foreseen for 1982 during the discussions.

The two sides reviewed on going projects supported by Danish grant aid, these include Noakhali Integrated Rural Development Project, activities in fisheries sector in Chittagong and project in inland water transport.

The projects that came under discussions were on intensive rural works programme in 100 thanas. This particular project is presently being prepared with Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish grant aids. The supply of fertilizer and pesticide as commodity aid were also agreed upon during the talks.

During the talks the two delegation called on Minister for Port, Shipping and Inland Water Transport, Mr Murul Haq and held discussion on further cooperation in maritime transport sector between the two countries. The Minister expressed his satisfaction with the supply of two roll-on-roll type or ferries under Danish grant and made a request of providing two more ferries of similar type. Bangladesh is one of four main development partners and she (Denmark) is one of the few countries meeting U.N. target of spending 0.7 per cent of its GNP on development aid.

NATION SIGNS CULTURAL ACCORD WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia on Wednesday signed a cultural agreement envisaging cultural exchanges between the two countries to strengthen their existing fraternal relationship, reports BSS.

Development of cultural cooperation and understanding between the people of two countries was the main feature of the agreement.

As per the provision of the agreement both governments will promote and facilitate cooperation in the sphere of arts literature, culture, education, science sports and communication media through the exchange of scientists, educationists, litterateurs, artists, journalists and film radio and TV personnel, sports teams and sports delegations.

Mr Mohammad Siddiqui Rahman, Secretary Ministry of Sports and Culture and Mr Alexander Venglar Czechoslovak Ambassador to Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

The Czechoslovak Ambassador termed the signing as a first step in furthering existing bond of relationship between the two countries. The Cultural Secretary said the agreement would go a long way in cementing the relationship between Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia.

With the signing of the agreement the number of countries having cultural agreement with Bangladesh rose to 27.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT, IRAQI MINISTERS' TALKS REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The visiting Iraqi Minister for Religious Affairs and Endowments Mr Nouri Faisal Shahir and his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr Abdur Rahman held official talks at the State Guest House in Dacca on Wednesday morning.

During the talks which lasted for about 90 minutes the two sides discussed ways and means for further cooperation in religious fields.

Later talking to BSS, the Iraqi Minister described the talks as very successful and said the talks were held at a very cordial atmosphere. "We have discussed for cooperation for the benefit of the two people." he said.

Mr Nouri Faisal Shahir, who is leading an eight member delegation to Bangladesh said that he would identify the areas of cooperation during his visit. He, however, said Iraq would provide assistance to some Islamic educational institutions in Bangladesh.

Religious Minister, Mr Abdur Rahman, said that he held very fruitful discussion with the Iraqi Minister. The delegation, he said, very much impressed by the development efforts of Bangladesh Government in religious fields.

Mr Rahman said that Iraq would cooperate with Bangladesh in the religious fields in future. The Bangladesh side explained various activities in the religious fields during the talks Mr Rahman said.

Mr Abdur Rahman was assisted during the talks by Mr Siddiquir Rahman, Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Director General of Islamic Foundation, Mr Shamsul Alam and Mr Abdur Rouf Deputy Secretary.

Dr Muhammad Sharif, Director General of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Iraq, Mr A/ Shekh Abdullah Al Shaikly Imam of Adila Khatoon Mosque, Baghdad and Iraqi Ambassador in Bangladesh assisted the Iraqi Minister during the talks.

Mr Nourie Faisal Shahir, Iraqi Minister for Religious Affairs and Endowments called on the Vice President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dacca on Wednesday morning.

During the meeting, the Iraqi Religious Minister lauded the role of Bangladesh as a member of the Islamic Peace Mission in solving the war between Iraq and Iran. He also referred to the fraternal ties between Iraq and Bangladesh adding that 'the people of Iraq considered Bangladesh as their second home.'

The Vice President Mr Justice Sattar reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Iraqi Religious Minister and said that Iraq and Bangladesh were bound by religious cultural and historical ties.

Referring to the war between Iraq and Iran Mr Sattar said that the sooner it came to an end the better not only for the two warring nations, but for the entire Muslim world. He also referred to the efforts being made by President Ziaur Rahman in bringing about peace between Iraq and Iran the two Islamic nations.

CSO: 4220

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE CHIEF SPEAKS AT DACCA MEETING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed, President, Democratic League at a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square on Saturday demanded immediate withdrawal of all Indian troops from South Talpatty and Indian warships from the territorial waters of Bangladesh.

He also thanked the section of the Indian people who had criticised the action of the Indian government on South Talpatty and said that the people of Bangladesh would fight to the last for preserving the territorial integrity of their motherland. He called for broadest possible unity to meet the challenge.

Presided over by Haji Mohammad Selim, Chief of the city unit of the party, the meeting was also addressed [as published] by Mr Abdur Rab Chowdhury and Mr Al-Majahidi.

The meeting was interrupted twice, first when some unidentified persons throw used coconut shells into the audience and secondly when two crackers exploded one after another. [as published]

Cracker Explosions

The meeting began at 5 p.m. while Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed arrived at the venue at 5-32 p.m. Both the interruptions took place while Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed was addressing the meeting. The hurling of coconut shells took place at 5-58 p.m., and explosions took place at 6-15 p.m. [as published] There were short-lived tensions among the audience.

None was injured by the explosions. There was no further incident and the meeting ended at 6-28 p.m. peacefully.

Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed called for broadbased unity among the opposition political parties. He said that his party was ready to enter into an alliance with any party except the ruling BNP.

Paying homage to those killed in an explosion at a DL meeting at the same place one year ago, he held the government responsible for the incident. He also criticised the government for its failure to detect the culprits and punish them.

The DL chief described the parliament as "powerless" and reiterated his party's demand for holding fresh general elections in the country to elect a "sovereign parliament".

He said that the President had only given a democratic cover to the parliament by getting it elected by the people only to perpetuate his personal power.

Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed said that the people were suffering from inflation despite huge foreign assistance and a deteriorating law and order situation.

He said that the present government had created the gram sarkars to cause disunity among the people and the youth complexes to demoralise the younger generation. He alleged that the government had been giving unrestricted licences for gambling.

At this stage, when somebody hurled a coconut shell towards the audience leading to chaos in the meeting, Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed said, "let the people of Bangla see who are the trouble mongers". [as published]

Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed said that the invasion of South Talpatty by Indian proved that the government had failed to preserve the territorial integrity of the country. [as published]

He accused the government of presenting South Talpatty to India in order to remain in power, he said.

The DL chief said that his party had forewarned the government against India's designs to grab South Talpatty. He criticised President Ziaur Rahman for making no statement in this regard. He accused the government of pursuing a policy of appeasement to woo a big and powerful neighbour. "We want peace with our neighbours but not at the cost of our national independence and state sovereignty", he said.

He said that the foreign policy of the government had failed to fulfil the expectations of the people. Despite Indian invasion, no country had so far sent even a postcard expressing its sympathy with the Bangladesh cause. [as published] "The Muslim world does not trust us. The non-aligned countries do not like us. We have made our country friendless internationally", he said.

Before the meeting was over, Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed was whisked away in a car kept inside the Dacca Stadium.

At 6-32 p.m. some slogan chanting people tried to proceed towards Baitul Mukarram Square in a procession. Police, however, managed to persuade them not to go any further.

However, after sometime, more people from the side of Ramna Bhaban joined the slogan chanting group. At this time they again tried to bring out a procession and police put up a barricade to stop them. Police resorted to lathi charge when some of the people tried to break the barricade and proceed towards the Baitul Mukarram.

After lathi-charge, somebody from among the slogan chanters hurled a cracker towards the policemen and the situation aggravated. This time, police fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the mob. The mob, on the other hand, retaliated [as published] the police action by hurling brickbats towards the policemen.

Three persons were injured during this incident who were given first aid at Dacca Medical College Hospital. [as published] Police arrested two persons from the spot. The tension, which continued till 6-45 p.m. died down after the call by the muazzin from the Baitul Mukarram mosque for Maghreb prayers.

In a resolution, the meeting observed that India had violated the Radcliffe Award by invading South Talpatty. In view of the Indian action, the people of Bangladesh would also have the right to criticise the Radcliffe Award which was imposed for the necessity of that time.

CSO: 4220/7867

PROGRESS OF WORK ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 May 81 p 1

[Text] Establishment Minister, Mr Majedul Huq on Tuesday said that an Administrative Reforms body headed by him is now working on recommendations for bringing about short, intermediate and long-term reforms in the administration.

The Minister told ENA that the short and intermediate-term reforms will aim at bringing about reforms in the Secretariat administration. In keeping with the change in the Secretariat there would be recommendations for reforms in the administration of autonomous bodies like sector corporation and as well as the directorate under different Ministries, he added. He did not elaborate the nature of changes.

The recommendations in this regard might be placed before the Government by January next year.

He said the long-term reforms will aim at decentralising the administration so as to enable the administrative units take quick action. He said the Government was contemplating measures to build up "Swanirvar Gram Sarkar" as self-contained units as a part of the measures for decentralising administration.

CSO: 4220

COOPERATION PACT WITH ALGERIA AGREED UPON

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 81 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and Algeria have agreed to implement an eight-point working plan towards further development of bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Prof. Mohammad Shamsul Huq, during a three-day official visit to Algeria which ended on May 11, thoroughly reviewed the existing bilateral relations with his Algerian counterpart Mr Mohammad Benyahia in Algiers. They agreed upon the in working plan during their meetings according to a delayed message received in Dacca on Thursday. [as published]

The two countries under the working plan will exchange delegations to examine economic and commercial prospects in conformity with the Algeria-Bangladesh trade agreement of October 14, 1976 signed in Algiers.

They thought that the supply of jute by Bangladesh Jute Export Corporation to Sonitex of Algeria under the recently concluded five-year agreement would contribute to development of trade between the two countries.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to exchange experiences and information between the two countries on exploration and development of natural gas organise expert level meetings to identify possibilities or cooperation in energy and petro-chemical sector.

They also decided to exchange expert missions to improve knowledge about each other to benefit from mutual experiences and identify the possibilities on cooperation in different fields of agriculture.

They also agreed to work out a biennial cultural exchange programme towards implementing the bilateral Bangladesh-Algeria cultural agreement signed in Algiers last Monday.

Under the working plan, the two countries will encourage exchange of delegations at all levels to promote their policy of consultation and cooperation and work out and conclude a convention towards implementing the scientific and technical cooperation agreement signed also Monday last in Algiers.

PID handout adds: Bangladesh Foreign Minister called on the Algerian President Mr Chadli Benjedid during his present visit to that country. He conveyed to the Algerian President the greetings and also a message from Bangladesh President. The Algerian President made enquiries about the health of the Bangladesh President and expressed keen interest in cooperation with Bangladesh in exploration of the development of natural gas in Bangladesh and also in other areas. He referred to the progress made by Bangladesh in agriculture and rural development and indicated the interest of Algeria in sharing the experience of Bangladesh in these areas. He expressed the hope that cooperation between the two brotherly countries will steadily grow following the signing of the agreements on scientific and technical cooperation and cultural cooperation. As desired by the Algerian President, Bangladesh Foreign Minister briefed him about the progress of the work of the Islamic Peace Committee. He stressed the urgency of ending this fratricidal war between the two brotherly Islamic countries. Bangladesh Foreign Minister renewed the invitation of the Bangladesh President to the Algerian President to visit Bangladesh. Algerian President said he would be very happy to visit Bangladesh in the near future and requested the Foreign Minister to convey his greetings to President Ziaur Rahman and best wishes for the brotherly people of Bangladesh. The meeting lasted for about an hour.

Later, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister called on the President of the National Assembly of Algeria. Foreign Minister also placed a wreath on the tomb of the late President Boumedienne.

CSO: 4220

JAMAAT OFFICIALS WARN AGAINST 'REIGN OF TERROR'

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 May 81 p 8

[Text] Messrs Abbas Ali Khan and Shamsur Rahman, Acting Ameer and Secretary General respectively of Jamat-e-Islami Bangladesh in a statement on Monday warned the Government of the "dreadful consequences" of "letting loose the reign of terror paving the way for 'promulgation of another martial law or banning of the Jamaat.'"

Expressing grave concern over what they termed as "an undesirable political tussle" started afresh on issues that had been shelved," they said this had now "turned into a widespread hate campaign." The Jamaat leaders "regretted" that the Government was a silent spectator in this regard. [as published]

They said a "particular section of people" who not being content with the hate campaign seemed to have formed a parallel Government taking laws in their own hands. [as published]

Messrs Abbas Ali Khan and Shamsur Rahman said that those elements had foiled the properly announced public meetings of their political adversaries attacked the latter's offices and thus "created reign of terror" violating all democratic values.

The two Jamaat leaders further said that their organisation was a lawful political party believing in the democratic and peaceful methods of political activities. "But a certain section of people in the guise of freedom fighters on false; unfounded and ill-motivated allegations against Jamaat-e-Islami; is issuing threats in public meetings of killing Jamaat leaders, of armed attacks on Jamaats' offices; sealing of Jamaat offices etc. in spite of all these in the greater interest of the country and the people the Jamaat has shown extreme patience in avoiding all clashes; they said. [as published]

The Jamaat leaders said that all their were happening at a time a when the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh was at jeopardy, when the national flag of a foreign country was flying on a particular tract of Bangladesh territory; when murder; loot, hijack and especially secret murders were being committed on the streets of the capital. [paragraph as published]

POLICE FIRE ON JAMAAT, FREEDOM FIGHTER CLASH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Police fired tear-gas shells to disperse clashing members of Jamaat-e-Islami and Muktiyuddha Sangsad at the Baitul Mukarram on Tuesday afternoon.

The brawl began when the members of the Jamaat-e-Islami took out a procession from the north end of the Baitul Mukarram square where the freedom fighters were also holding a rally in protest of the landing of Indian troops and the occupation of South Talpatty by India. The Jamaat also organised their rally for protesting the same incident.

The police on duty at the spot put up a barrier between the clashing groups and later fired tear-gas shells to disperse them.

After the situation became normal the Muktiyuddha Sangsan [as published] continued their meeting at the square and condemned Indian forcible occupation of the coastal island of South Talpatty. They also announced a programme to bring out a procession on Tuesday to protest against Indian unilateral action on the island and to hold demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission.

President and General Secretary of Muktiyuddha Sangram Parishad Major (Retd) Ziauddin and Mr Shahidul Islam in a statement later condemned the Jamaat-e-Islam and other forces opposed to national independence for attacking a rally of Parishad held at the Baitul Mukarram square also on the same day. They said that a number of the members of the Parishad were injured during the attack.

Meanwhile, Mr Naim Jahangir, Secretary General, Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad in a statement to the press said that four freedom fighters were injured in the Baitul Mukarram Square incident on Tuesday.

CSO: 4220/7859

FREEDOM FIGHTERS PROTEST ATTACKS BY JAMAAT, POLICE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad on Thursday announced a two day programme to protest the attacks on freedom fighters by police and workers of the Jamaat-e-Islami reports ENA.

The programme includes staging of demonstrations all over the country on May 25 and holding of protest rallies on May 26.

The programme was announced by Secretary General of the Sangsad Mr. Naim Jahangir at a rally held in Dacca to protest the police and Jamaat action against freedom fighters. The rally was addressed by Chairman of the Sangsad Col (Retired) Nuruzzaman and Organising Secretary Mr. Mahhub Ahmed, Deputy Commander of Dacca City Unit Command Mr. Sultanuddin Ahmed presided. [as published]

Addressing the rally Colonel Nuruzzaman said agents of Pakistani occupation forces Razakars and Al-Badr were still working in different government agencies. The police attack on the freedom fighters while they were staging a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission to protest the Indian action on South Talpatty Island was a planned action by those forces.

He said people would not tolerate the existence of the Razakars and Al-Badr for long. He asked the freedom fighters to continue their struggle to eliminate these forces from the administration on the basis of the seven point programme announced by the Sangsad earlier.

Col. Zaman accused the government of pursuing a weak foreign policy which he said, had given India the scope to land its troops on South Talpatty Island.

Mr. Naim Jahangir said the present government has failed to resist the Razakars and Al-Badr on the one hand and to protest the sovereignty and independence of the country on the other. As such he said the present regime has forfeited its right to remain power. [as published]

He said the freedom fighters of the country are committed to protecting the sovereignty and independence of the country. If necessary they will again lay down their lives to recover South Talpatty Island from Indian troops, he said.

CSO: 4220/7862

FORMER LEADERS REGRET INVOLVEMENT WITH BSS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Three former members of the now defunct "Biplobi Sainik Sangatha" on Thursday regretted their involvement with the activities of the Sangatha and urged their fellow compatriots [as published] not to commit the same mistake that they had committed, reports BSS.

In a joint statement delivered at a Press conference at Jatiya Press Club they vehemently criticised the politics of the Jatiya Samajtantric Dal (JSD) and Bangladesher Samajtantric Dal (BSD) and held them responsible, for the objectionable and dangerous activities in the Armed Forces.

The signatories to these statement are former Naik Subedar Md. Jalaluddin Vice President former Naik Md. Asaduzzaman member and former Naik K. N. A. Hakim, member of the defunct Biplobi Sainik Sangatha led by late Col. Abu Taher.

They also announced their disassociation from the JSD at the Press conference.

They further alleged that the JSD leadership had prepared a blueprint to kill Sheikh Mujib and the members of his family to sap the morale of the Baksalities [as published] against any of their possible resistance to its (JSD) uprising.

The leaders of defunct Biplobi Sainik Sangatha accused the JSD leadership of creating a reign of terror by attacking the police outposts in the length and breadth of the country.

They said that the JSD leaders never explained their relations with Mr. Peter Custard who during his confinement in jail used to say openly that he had contributed Taka 40 lakh to JSD. But the JSD leaders never protested his claim.

The three leaders of Sangatha dismissed the claim of JSD organising the people-soldier revolution on November 7, 1975 against Khaled Mosharaff as travesty of truth.

After the successful revolution the soldiers submitted their 12-point charter of demands to General Ziaur Rahman and not to the JSD they said.

The former Biplobi leaders accused the JSD leadership of hatching a conspiracy to topple the Government of General Ziaur Rahman towards the end of November, 1975.

They pointed out that Col. Taher met the same fate as is natural for the leaders of abortive military coup. They said that late Col. Taher allowed himself to be used by the JSD leadership.

They alleged that JSD got itself involved in the abortive coup of October 2, 1977 and June 17 of 1980. The JSD leadership also made a vain attempt to make contact with China but the latter showed no interest in it.

They noted that the JSD leadership which had once condemned the Baksalites as the number one enemies of the country have now entered into political alliance with them (BAKSAL).

CSO: 4220/7862

PAPER REPORTS EXPULSIONS FROM NATIONALIST PARTY

Bank Employees Federation Chief

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 81 p 1

[Text] The President of Bangladesh Bank Employees Federation (BBEF) Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed was expelled and removed from the primary membership of BNP with immediate effect, it was announced on Sunday night reports BSS.

The decision to expel Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed from the party was taken by the Standing Committee of BNP at a meeting held on Sunday night.

Jubo Dal Members

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 81 p 1

[Text] Six members of Jubo Dal of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were expelled on Sunday night, from the party in accordance with the decision taken by the BNP Standing Committee.

A party source told BSS that six expelled from the Jubo Dal, five were from Mymensingh and the remaining one from Kaliganj, Dacca who recently joined the BNP from other political party.

Five expelled members from Mymensingh are Mr. Aftab Uddin Dulal Vice President Mymensingh Sadar (South) Political District Jubo Dal Mr. Muksed Ahmed Gama, Vice President Mymensingh Sadar (South) Political District Jubo Dal Md. Iqbal Chowdhury Babla President Mymensingh Town Jubo Dal Committee, Mr. Shahidul Islam Kaiser, General Secretary Mymensingh Town Jubo Dal committee and Mr Md Hanif member Mymensingh Town Jubo Dal committee.

The source said Mr. Imdadul Huq Indu of Kaliganj Jubo Dal who recently joined BNP from other party was expelled from BNP for his "anti-party activities".

CSO: 4220/7868

BNP VISITORS REPORTED FETED IN PYONGYANG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 81 p 8

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6:--The central committee of the workers' party of Korea arranged a banquet here last Thursday in honour of the 3-member delegation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, now on a two-week tour of DPR Korea reports KCNA.

The delegation is headed by Mr Ekramul Haq, a member of the National Standing Committee of the BNP and Convener of the Agriculture and Land Reform Committee.

Present at the banquet were Vice Premier at DPRK Kim Gyong Ryon and member of the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Yong Gol.

Speaking at the banquet, Vice-Premier Kim Gyong Ryon said that the parties and peoples of Korea and Bangladesh were linked together by tight bonds of friendship for commonness of cause of the struggle to maintain independence and build a new world free from subjugation and inequality.

The meetings between President Kim Il Sung and President Ziaur Rahman in Pyongyang in September 1978 and again in Belgrade in May last year were signal events in developing and expanding friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, he stressed.

Noting that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Bangladesh people under the guidance of President Ziaur Rahman have registered great success in their endeavours against outside interference and for defending independence and building a new prospering Bangladesh, he said.

"We warmly hail their success."

Mr Ekramul Haq said that the purpose of their visit to Korea was to further consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between two peoples and learn from experiences gained by Korea in industrial, agricultural and other domains through embodiment of the Juche idea.

Mr Haq said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Government are waging the revolutionary struggle in the spirit of self-reliance. He said that the quest of Korean reunification must be settled in conformity with desire of the Korean people.

BNP LEADERS REFUTE DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Two central leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in a joint statement contradicted the statement of Democratic League Chief Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed at a public meeting in Dacca on Saturday and requested him not to mislead people by making misstatements.

Mr Khalequzzaman Khan Dudu, and Sheikh Saukat Hossain Nilu, organising Secretary and Agricultural Secretary respectively of National Executive Committee of BNP termed the reported statement of Khandaker Moshtaque that 'the government of Ziaur Rahman has pursued the policy of appeasement towards India, as untrue and designed to mislead public opinion. [as published]

They said, 'Bangladesh has secured a respected position in the comity of nations due to strong foreign policy pursued by President Ziaur Rahman. It has earned good name in the Muslim world including Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh has been playing an important role in the non-aligned movement and pursuing a policy that seeks resolving problems through bilateral discussion by upholding the policy of co-existence.' [as published]

The BNP leaders said, 'we want to remind Mr Khandaker Moshtaque that during his 81-day tenure as President of the country, he voted in faour [as published] of India in all the seven votings in the Security Council of UN. [as published]

They said 'Bangladesh has been elected as a Member of the Security Council due to the strong foreign policy of President Ziaur Rahman Bangladesh has also secured the post of Vice-Chairman in the Organisation of Islamic Conference. [as published] The success of our foreign policy is not only claimed by the BNP alone, but also it has been appreciated by most of the opposition political leaders including Muslim League Chief Mr Khan A Sabur.'

Referring to the remark by Khandaker Moshtaque that BNP was following a 'politics of disunity, the BNP leaders said BNP is determined to establish an exploitation-free society by uniting the people on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism.'

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN'S 25 MAY STATEMENTS REPORTED

Indian Survey Rejected

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 May 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh on Monday categorically rejected the so-called results of unilateral and illegal survey conducted by India regarding the South Talpatty island (New Moore) and expressed surprise over the 'untenable and unilateral claim'.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office told this to BSS when his attention was drawn to a PTI news item of May 23 on the so-called first results of a survey conducted by 'INS Sandhayak' regarding the island and unilaterally claiming it to be India's.

The spokesman reiterated that the two Governments should conduct immediately a joint survey as they had agreed earlier with a view to resolving this problem peacefully and expeditiously and thereby dispel all misgivings on this issue in the interests of friendly and good-neighbourly relations and to generate a climate of mutual trust and understanding.

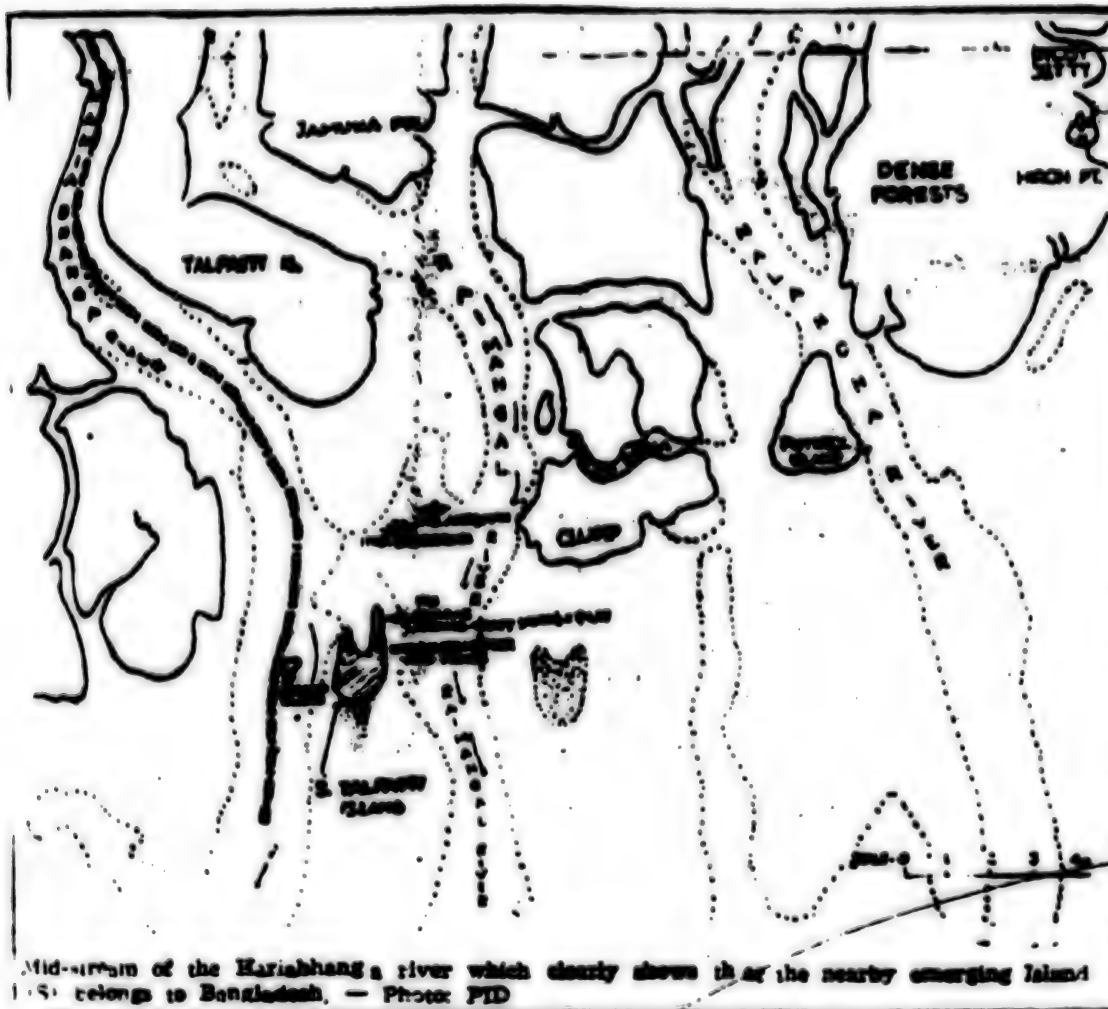
The spokesman stated that the Government of Bangladesh in its various Note Verbales since 11 May 1981 had pointed out to the Government of India that the manner in which the purported survey was carried out by an armed Indian naval boat was a clear violation of the agreements and understanding reached between the two Governments for a peaceful solution of the problem at an early date and also of internationally accepted norms and practices.

The spokesman further pointed out that if the intention of the Indian Government in sending the "INS Sandhaeak" to New Moore (South Talpatty) island was to carry out a survey of the area and to collect information in connection with the settlement of this problem, this objective would have been best served through a joint survey by India and Bangladesh as agreed upon by the two governments.

The least that would be expected from a close neighbour and in view of existing agreements that the Government of Bangladesh should have been informed in advance of the contemplated step. The results of a survey conducted unilaterally in a disputed area can hardly be objective or reliable the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that in the light of the above the Government of Bangladesh categorically rejected the purported results of this illegal and unilateral survey as unacceptable.

He stated that in the interests of friendly and good-neighbourly relations and to generate a climate of mutual trust and understanding the two Governments should conduct immediately a joint survey as agreed upon with a view to resolving this problem peacefully and expeditiously and thereby dispel all misgivings on this issue.



Mid-stream of the Hariabhang river which clearly shows that the nearby emerging island belongs to Bangladesh. — Photo: PID

Indian Border Alert Noted

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 May 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh on Monday expressed surprise at the state of alert on which the Indian border security forces have reportedly been put in Tripura along the Indo-Bangladesh border and said it could not understand why this extraordinary step has been taken by the Indian Government, reports BSS.

A Foreign Office spokesman also described a report in a section of Indian Press alleging massing of Bangladesh troops along the border as 'totally baseless, misleading and motivated' when his attention was drawn to it.

The spokesman expressed surprise at a news item quoting Indian official sources based in Agartala, Tripura, that the Indian Border Security Forces have been put on alert in Tripura along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

He said, 'It is not understood why this extraordinary step has been taken by the Indian Government'.

CSO: 4220/7871

EXPULSIONS FROM BANGLADESH NATIONALIST PARTY CONTINUE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Twelve more persons were expelled from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for "breach of party discipline and anti-people activities".

With this, a party source told BSS Monday night, the total number of expelled persons from BNP and its front organisations rose to 18. The party had earlier announced the expulsion of six persons in accordance with the decision taken by the Standing Committee.

The expelled persons are: Mr Ibrahim (Azimpur area Chhatra Dal), Mr Manzu, President Tejgaon Chhatra Dal, Mr Scisor General Secretary, Jashimuddin Hall, Mr Zafar, Dacca City Chhatra Dal, Mr Akhtaruzzaman Liton, Rajshahi City Chhatra Dal, Mr Jamal, Mohsin Hall Dacca University, Mr Mokhlesur Rahman, General Secretary, Surhawardy College Students' Union, Mr Shoeb, Member, Suhrawardy College Chhatra Dal, Shah Alam, Jatiatabadi Juba Dal, Comilla, Mr Jahangir, Vice-President Tejgaon Regional Branch of Juba Dal, Mohammad Shafi, Tejgaon Regional Sramik Dal and Mr Azad Milky, Mymensingh BNP. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7871

BANGLADESH, BELGIUM SIGN ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

Dacca THE BANGALDESH OBSERVER in English 23 May 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh and Belgium on Friday signed two agreements on "investment promotion and protection" and on "development cooperation" on board the steamer "Gazi" reports ENA.

Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq and the Belgian Foreign Minister Charles Ferdinand Nothomb signed the investment promotion and protection agreement while Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and Belgian Minister for Cooperation and Development Daniel Coens signed the development cooperation agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The investment promotion and protection agreement will initially remain valid for ten years. It is designed to encourage the flow of Belgian private investment in Bangladesh.

Under the provision of the agreement, both the countries will initially remain valid for ten years. It is designed to encourage the flow of Belgian private investment in Bangladesh.

Under the provision of the agreement, both the countries will provide the most favoured nation treatment to each other. Besides, the investment by an investor of one country will receive full protection and security in another country under the provision of the agreement.

The return of investment and repatriation of capital has been guaranteed by the agreement.

After signing the agreement Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq described it as "a milestone in the history of growing relation between Bangladesh and Belgium."

The other agreement on development cooperation will be valid for a period of five years initially. Under the agreement, Belgium will provide technical assistance for various projects in the fields of agriculture mining, food production and storage and social welfare activities.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh will receive a total of 1,000 million Belgian Francs equivalent to about 34 million U.S. dollars as grant over a period of five years.

Present at the time of signing the agreements were Acting Foreign Secretary Ataul Karim, Additional Foreign Secretary Abdul Bari, Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury and Belgian Ambassador to Bangladesh Raymond Van Roy.

REACTION TO 7 MAY ASSASSINATION OF NEWSMEN REPORTED

Strike Call, Meeting

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The journalists all over the country observed complete strike on Saturday in protest against secret killings reports BSS.

There was no publication of newspapers on Sunday and not a single word was creeded by news agencies on Saturday said a DUJ Press release on Sunday.

The strike call was given jointly by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dacca Union of Journalists (DUJ) in protest against the killings of Mr Ferdous Alam (Dulal) Senior Staff Reporter of BSS and Mr Abdul Rahman a prominent labour leader who were assassinated on May 7. The strike call was also supported by Sangbadpatra Press Sramik Federation and General Employees Federation. The members of the two federations abstained from work to support the strike call.

The BFUJ and DUJ's programmes on Saturday included holding of a condolence meeting at the Jatiya Press Club which was followed by a protest march. The processionists paraded the main thorough fares of the city and chanted slogans "stop secret killings" "resist terror" "establish democratic right" and "ensure freedom of the Press."

The journalists wore black badges on Friday and Saturday condoling the death of Ferdous Alam Dulal and as a mark of protest against secret killings.

Presided over by Mr Ahmed Humayun President of BFUJ, the condolence meet'ng was addressed by Mr Obaidul Huq, President of the Editor's Council, Mr Enay tullah Khah Advisory Editor of the weekly HOLIDAY, Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, President of DUJ, Mr Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General of BFUJ, Mr Amanullah Kabir, General Secretary c. DUJ, Mr Nirmal Sen former President of BRUJ, Mr Bazlur Rahman, senior Vice President of the Jatiya Press Club, Mr Anwar Zahid former president of DUJ, Mr Jahangir Kabir, President of Bangladesh Sanbadpatra General Employees' Federation and Mr Nazimuddin Manik.

Besides journalists the condolence meeting was attended by leaders of political parties and student organisations. Among others, Mr Sahjahan Siraj MP Joint Secretary of JSD Sarder Anjad Hossain, Publicity Secretary of Awami League (Hasina),

Dr Aleem al Razee DUCSU Vice President Mr Mahmudur Rahman Manna were present.

The Press release said the meeting in a resolution demanded of the government to nab the killers of Mr Dulal and Mr Abdur Rahman by May 16. It demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the killing. In another resolution the meeting expressed its deep concern over the increasing number of incidents of secret killings all over the country.

The meeting condemned all killings including those of Mr Delal and Mr Abdur Rahman and demanded of the government to fulfill its responsibility of putting an end to secret killings and to ensure security of life to citizens.

The meeting called upon all conscientious and democratic elements to build up formidable resistance against terror and secret killings.

Condoling the death of Mr Dulal and Mr Abdur Rahman the meeting expressed heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. The speakers in the meeting recalled their association with Mr Dulal and paid tributes to labour leader Mr Abdur Rahman.

The meeting began with recitation from the Holy Quran. One minute's silence was observed as mark of respect to the departed souls the Press release said.

In his speech Mr Obaidul Huq said that the incidents of wanton killings had eroded respect to human life. He said that the living ones were under the shadow of abnormal death and passing days in a state of suspended animation.

In his presidential speech Mr Ahmed Humayun said, "where arms rule everything is rendered meaningless." He said the democratic values had now become almost extinct and lawlessness in the society were jeopardising the independence and sovereignty of the country he said adding that the democratic values in the society were being impaired by intolerance. He criticised the government for its failure to ensure law and order and security of life. He said that the journalists would join any movement by the democratic forces to resist anarchy and secret killings.

DUJ President Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said last year journalists demanded trial of those responsible for the gruesome incident of bomb-blast at Baitul Mukarram on May 23, 1980 in which nine persons including a journalists were killed.

He regretted that government had failed to arrest anyone in that connection and even the report of the Judicial Enquiry Committee did not come out.

He observed that killings would not be stopped in future if the killers of Mr Dulal and Mr Rahman and others in the past go unpunished. He said that democracy could never flourish in a state of terror secret killings and intolerance.

The BFUL Secretary General Mr Reazuddin Ahmed said that the government had failed to provide security of life. He said that the members of the journalist community had also become frequent prey to the assassin's bullet. He demanded restoration of law and order in the country.

The DUJ General Secretary Mr Amanullah Kabir held the government responsible for anarchy and lawlessness prevailing in the country. There must be an end to horror of secret killings he stressed.

In his speech the President of Sangbadpatra General Employees' Federation, Mr Jahan gir Kabir said that freedom of the Press was essential to establish democratic values and resist terror and stop secret killings.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Enayetullah Khan said that the state machinery would be held responsible for such secret killings till the time it traced out the killers. Condemning the brutal killings Mr Khan alleged that the government machinery was guilty of promoting anarchy. He called for a united movement to resist the new fascists.

In his speech Mr Nirmal Sen said that the killers and their abettors were to be condemned equally. He said that if arms were used for creating white terror instead of progress the history is replete with examples that the patrons of terror are doomed.

Mr Sen said that some "known quarters" had publicly threatened in Ghorashal on May 1 that Mr Abdur Rahman would remain alive only for seven days. He wanted to know whether the law enforcement agencies had taken any action against the quarters who had made such threats.

Mr Anwar Zahid called upon people from all walks of life to build up united resistance against secret killings. He said life of people had become insecure and political killings had become common these days. He said that the killers were the enemies of humanity society and the nation. The phenomenon of secret killings and terror date back as early as in 1971-72 and those he added who indulged in these crimes were now shedding crocodile tears.

In his speech Mr Bazlur Rahman said that the journalists were a part of the society and if the total lawlessness in the country could not be stopped the members of the journalist community would continue to fall victims to the assassin's bullets.

Mr Nazimuddin Manik recalled his association with Mr Dulal and said that late Dulal was a conscientious journalist who never confused his professional responsibility with his personal conviction or politics.

CULJ

BSS adds: Journalists of Chittagong observed 24-hour strike on Saturday in response to the call of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists to protest the killing of Mr Ferdaus Alam Dulal a Senior Reporter of BSS.

No newspaper was published Saturday in the Port city of Chittagong as a result of the strike. Journalists wore black badges for two days. Black flags were also hoisted atop all newspaper and news agency offices as a mark of grief.

Speakers at a condolence meeting held on Saturday at the local Press Club under the auspices of Chittagong Union of Journalists expressed their anguish and bitterly criticised the law and order enforcing agencies for their failure to protect the life and security of the people particularly the journalists.

More Leaders Condemn

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Different political students and social organisations continued to condemn the killing of labour leader Mr Abdur Rahman and journalist Mr Ferdous Alam Dulal. Different organisations held meetings and processions to condemn the incident and called for building up resistance against secret killing.

President's Comments

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 May 81 p 1

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman expressed his profound grief at the killings of journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal and labour leader Abdur Rahman and assured that the killers would be traced out and tried.

Speaking at a Press conference at the Rastrapati Bhavan on Sunday the President termed the killings as condemnable and heinous. He announced that the killers would be tried under the normal law of the country.

The President admitted that the law and order situation had deteriorated recently. In 1974-75 the law and order situation became alarming but he observed, it improved later on. He said that many political prisoners had to be released from jail but many of them were not really political workers. He hoped that no one would use these "criminals" for politics. He advised the Press to mobilise public opinion against such criminals.

Replying to a question the President announced that measures were being taken to improve law and order situation.

Asked to comment why the reports of most of the enquiry committees on secret killings were not made public, the President said that reports of enquiry committees had been received by the Government. He said that for prompt investigation the Administration had to be strengthened which he said would take some time.

When his attention was brought to the demands of the freedom fighters the President said that he was enquiring into the problems of the freedom fighters. He said that the problems must be solved through proper political process.

CSO: 4220

PAPER REPORTS FURTHER REACTION TO 7 MAY KILLINGS

Jatiya Sramik League, Others

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Acting President of Jatiya Sramik League, Labour Front of Awami League (Mizan) Sayedul Huq Sadu on Wednesday demanded immediate government action against the killers of Sramik League's former President Abdur Rahman and young journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal, reports ENA.

Addressing a workers' rally at Bahdur Shah Park in Dacca on Wednesday morning, he said if the government fail to take action within a reasonable period of time, the workers will close down mills and factories all over the country. They will also stop movements of all public transports, he added.

The rally held to protest against the killing of labour leader Abdur Rahman and young journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal was also addressed, by General Secretary of the Organisation Abdul Mannan, Organising Secretary Khorshedul Alam and member of Central Committee Mr Nurul Islam Babu.

Earlier, Mr Sadu claimed that workers of different mills and factories including Adamjee Jute Mills in Posta, Ghorashal and Kaliganj ceased to work in response to the Sramik League's call for observing token strike on Wednesday.

The strike call was given to protest against the killing of the former President of the organisation Sheikh Abdur Rahman and senior Reporter of BANGLADESH SANG-BAD SANGSTHA (BSS) Mr Ferdous Alam Dulal.

Mr Abdul Mannan said secret killings, hijack and terrorisation of opposition passed all previous records. He said, the opposition parties and labour organisations time and again urged the government to stop such incidence. But since the government has failed, now it is the turn of the people to build up resistance against such forces.

He also demanded that May 7 the day Abdur Rahman and Dulal were killed should be declared public holiday as a mark of respect to those victims of secret killing.

Mr Khorshedul Alam said if the government fails the worker will trace out the killer. Later, a procession was brought out. The processionists paraded city streets raising slogans to trace out the killers.

United People's Party Leader

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 p 3

[Text] Chairman of United People's Party Kazi Zafar Ahmed alleged on Tuesday that "politics of BNP is giving indulgence to killers" reports ENA.

He was talking to newsmen at a Press conference addressed by Mrs Anwara Begum, Executive President of Bangla Sramik Federation labour front of UPP at the central office of the party in Dacca on Tuesday afternoon.

Replying to question Kazi Zafar said "if any criminal was released in the name of political worker then that was done in the interest of BNP politics."

The UPP Chairman said "Killing of labour leader Abdur Rahman was no isolated incident. Mr Rahman was victim of BNP politics which gives indulgence to killers."

Kazi Zafar accused BNP labour front Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal of creating terror in the industrial belts. He said that Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal is forcibly taking over the unions led by Opposition trade union workers.

He said that his labour front Bangla Sramik Federation is negotiating with all Opposition trade union organisations on the issue of building up united resistance against killings and terror in the industrial area.

CSO: 4220

ALLIANCE PARTY LEADERS CONDEMN SECRET KILLINGS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 May 81 p 1

[Text] The General Secretaries of 10-party Alliance on Friday expressed their concern at what they said incidents of secret killing murder, dacoity and hi-jacking all over the country reports BSS.

In a joint statement they said that these incidents had now become 'common feature' in the country.

They condemned the killing of the labour leader Mr Abdur Rahman and journalist Mr Ferdous Alam Dulal and called upon the people to build united resistance against secret killings all over the country. In this connection they referred to the killing of JSD leader Ali Hussain at Kaliganj and Mr Rafiquddin of Awami League at Natore and blamed the Government for these acts of violence.

Those issued the joint statement are Mr Abdur Razzak Bangladesh Awami League-(H) Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab (JSD), Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed Awami League-(H), Mr Sanifuddin Ahmed Manik (Bangladesher Communist Party Pir Habibur Rahman (NAP-Muzaffar), Mr Pankaj Bhattachariya (NAP Harun), Sardar Abdul Halim (JEP), Mr Abdus Samad Gano Azadi League, Mr Haider Akber Khan Rone (Workers Party) and Mr Siddiqur Rahman (Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal).

CSO: 4220

JOURNALISTS ASK RESISTANCE TO SECRET KILLINGS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 May 81 p 12

[Text] The Dacca Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Friday called for building up a mass resistance against secret killing and terrorism and for establishing a democratic social order with freedom of expression and freedom of the Press, reports ENA.

In a joint statement on the eve of the first anniversary of the killing of journalist Kazi Mustafizur Rahman and eight others on May 23 last year in bomb blast at Baitul Mukarram Square, DUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and General Secretary Amanullah Kabir, resented that those responsible for the killing were not yet brought to book.

DUJ leaders hoped that the tragic incident of May 23 would awaken the conscience of all to come forward to unitedly resist terrorist activities and help create an atmosphere of democratic tolerance.

The DUJ leaders paid tributes to the memory of Kazi Mustafizur Rahman, who was a staff reporter of DAINIK BANGLAR MUKH and the others killed in the bomb blast.

The leaders reiterated their demand that Mr. Abu Saleh of DAINIK DESH, who was injured in the incident and has not recovered as yet, be sent abroad for treatment.

Mr. Iqbal Sobhan and Mr. Kabir noted that several other journalists and photographers were also injured in the incident while discharging their professional duties. The injured journalists are Mr. Mashir Hossain, Mr. Jahirul Huq, Mr. Abdul Khalek and Mr. Kamruzzaman of DAINIK BANGLA, Mr. Shafiqul Kabir of the ITTEFAQ, Mr. Abdul Mannan of DAINIK SANGRAM, Mr. Rezaul Huq Saroj of DESH BANGLA and Mahbub of WEEKLY MUKTI BANI.

In this connection the DUJ leaders also recalled that young journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal and labour leader Mr. Abdur Rahman fell victim of terrorism on the seventh of this month. They demanded that the killers of Dulal and Mr. Rahman be tracked down immediately and be awarded exemplary punishment.

MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTION ON NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 81 p 1

[Text] THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER which is selling 55,000 copies a day, has the highest circulation among the three government managed newspapers in the country.

Disclosing this in the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday, Mr. Shamsul Hadu Choudhury Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said DAINIK BANGLA has a circulation of 27,000/28,000 and THE BANGLADESH TIMES has a circulation of 18,000.

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER'S circulation has improved from 47,662 to 55,000 while that of DAINIK BANGLA has come down to 27,000/28,000 from 45,072. There has been a similar decline in the circulation of the BANGLADESH TIMES from 30,000 copies to the present circulation of 18,000.

Mr. Shamsul Huda Choudhury said in reply to a supplementary question by Mr. A. B. M. Taleb that the decline in the circulation of the BANGLADESH TIMES and DAINIK BANGLA were due to publication of large number of newspapers from the country. He said in all 449 papers and journals are coming out from the country.

In reply to a supplementary question by Mr. Shahjahan Siraj whether DAINIK DESH was being printed from THE OBSERVER PRESS the Minister said since DAINIK DESH was not a Government managed newspaper he was not in a position to reply to the question.

CSO: 4220/7862

POLICE INJURE PROTESTERS AT INDIAN CHANCERY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Fifteen persons belonging to the Muktiyoddha Sangsad were injured following lathi-charge by the police in front of the Indian High Commission on Wednesday.

Members of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad were staging a demonstration in front of the High Commission in protest against the landing of Indian troops at South Talpatty.

The injured persons are: Naim Jahangir, Feroz Ahmed Khan, Yunus Moliah, Mujibul Huq Chunna, Yusuf Ali, Moklesur Rahman Abu Ahmed Shahjahan, Dulu Mia, Ali Ahmed Ali Reza, Capt. (Redt) Reza A. Hai, Mir Abdul Mannan and Mozaffar Ahmed Khan.

BSS adds: Police fired five rounds of tear gas shells on Wednesday to disperse demonstrators led by Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad who were protesting against the Indian occupation of South Talpatty island near the Indian High Commission at Dhanmondi.

The police went into action when about one hundred demonstrators tried to force their way towards the High Commission buildings breaking the barricade set up by the police about three hundred yards from the Chancery.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Lt. Col. (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman and Secretary-General Mr. Naim Jahangir in a joint statement to the Press on Wednesday night deplored what they called as Government's planned attack on the freedom fighters with a view to pursuing policies to please India. They condemned Government's failure to protect South Talpatty.

They said, Wednesday's police action on freedom fighters is an ample testimony to all these designs. On the other hand, anti-national elements like Al-Badrs and Razakars are acting against the struggle to preserve sovereignty and freedom, they said. Incidents on Tuesday and Wednesday prove this, they said. They urged the people to side with the freedom fighters in their struggle to preserve sovereignty and freedom.

The Dacca city unit commander of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square at 3:30 p.m. today (Thursday) to protest police action on the procession of the Freedom Fighters agitating against Indian occupation of South Talpatty on Wednesday reports BSS.

CSO: 4220/7860

FOOD MINISTER DISCUSSES WORLD FOOD PARLEY PLANS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Food Minister Abdul Momen Khan said in Dacca on Friday that Bangladesh would emphasize the importance of external assistance to the success of "national food strategy policies" of developing countries at the five-day conference of the World Food Council (WFC) scheduled to begin at Navisad, Yugoslavia from May 25. [as published]

Talking to ENA, the Food Minister said that the forthcoming World Food Council conference would mainly discuss eight issues.

The eight issues are conclusion of a wheat trade convention, acceleration of construction of food infrastructure in developing countries for storage, transport and related projects, establishment of an IMF food facility system to help countries overcome balance of payment crisis, review of the food aid convention for a five-year period at 10 million ton level to guarantee a minimum food and floor in times of market strains, annual replenishment of five million tons to international emergency food reserve, strengthening the World Food Programme, food crisis contingency measures and food crisis contingency reserve.

Turning to present food situation, the Food Minister said there will be no import of food this year through cash purchase for domestic consumption. He however, said 50 thousand tons of food grains would be purchased from Thailand and diverted to India. Bangladesh took loan of two lakh tons of foodgrains from India during the draught year of 1979. Fifty thousand tons were returned last year while another consignment [as published] of 50 thousand tons will be returned during the current year, the Food Minister explained.

CSO: 4220/7864

FOOD PRICE INCREASES AS HIGH AS 100 PERCENT REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Prices of almost all items in the kutchha bazars, particularly rice, fish, vegetable and pulses increased substantially over the last two months.

The average price-hike over this period has been estimated at 10 to 40 per cent. However, in the case of "mug dal" the rate of increase is 90 to 100 per cent.

Prices of only edible oils remained static over these two months.

Prices of rice which remained stabilise over last couple of months, started increasing from Mid-April. Now one maund of coarse variety of rice is being sold at Tk 200. The price of little better quality is around Tk. 280 per maund. In the first week of March, one maund of rice was sold between Tk 172 and Tk 240 depending on quality.

Retailers said that supply and stock positions of rice were normal. They said that the wholesalers had increased the prices on the pretext of recent heavy rainfall throughout the country. The wholesalers claimed that rains had damaged standing crops which resulted in the short supply from the 'mokums' (interior markets).

Rain Damage Minimal

But, knowledgeable sources said that the claims of the wholesalers could not be accepted. Because, the crop damaged by rain was estimated to be minimal and the dislocation of supply due to rains was temporary. They said that price-hike of rice was artificial and the creation of wholesalers.

Price-hike of different types of pulses was also substantial over last two months. One seer of 'mug dal' used to be sold between Tk 10 and 11 in the first week of March. It is now selling at between Tk 18 and 20. Price of one seer of 'musur' was Tk 10 to Tk 11 two months back, which is now selling at Tk 13. Price of 'khesari' was Tk 7 to Tk 7.50 per seer which now selling at Tk 8 to Tk 8.50.

Wholesalers said that there was no possibility of falling the prices of pulses. They said that production of pulses was comparatively less this year. Moreover,

the 'araidara' at 'mekum' areas had stocked huge quantity of pulses which they would release to the markets slowly in coming months in order to get exorbitant prices, they said.

However, sale of 'masur dal' through DOSCOR shops at Tk 9 per seer brought some relief to the general consumers. Experts were of the opinion that the sale of other essential commodities through COSCOR shops would create good impact in the overall prices of commodities.

Prices of fish had also increased substantially over the last two months. One seer of 'ruhi' which sold between Tk 28 and 34 in the first week of March, is now selling between Tk 40 and 45. The present prices of one seer of 'katal' is Tk 30 to 35 as against Tk 22 to 24 two months back, price of one seer of 'hilaha' is at present Tk 20 to 22 as against Tk 18 to 20. Prices of average 10 'shing' and 'kai' were around Tk 30 in the first week of March which are now selling at around Tk 40.

One seer of onion is now selling at Tk 5 to 6 as against Tk 3.50 to 4.50 two months back. Price of one seer of red chilly is Tk 40 to 48 as against Tk 26 to 28, one seer of garlic is now selling at Tk 12 to 14 as against Tk 8 to 10. Present price of one seer of ginger is Tk 30 to 32 while the price was only Tk 15 to 16 two months ago while dhania is selling at Tk 13 to Tk 15 per seer as against Tk 8 to 9 in the first week of March.

Prices of beef, mutton, chicken and eggs remained more or less unchanged over the period. However, prices of eggs showed some increasing trend over last few days one half (four) eggs now selling at Tk 4.25 to 4.50.

Prices of different types of vegetables had also increased to some extent over last two months. The prices of one seer of bringal was Tk 1.50, green papaya Tk 2.50 to Tk 3, 'ucchey' Tk 4.50 to 5 and karala Tk 4.50 to 5 in the first week of March. The present prices of these items are Tk 3.50 to 4, Tk 3.50 to 4, Tk 5 to 5.50 and Tk 5.50 to 6 per seer respectively.

CSO: 4220

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD SUPPLY SEEN BY 1985

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 May 81 p 1

[Text] The World Bank considers that the Government programme for attaining self-sufficiency in food by 1985 is 'a feasible target' but points out that the success of the programme depends on satisfactory management,' reports ENA.

Bangladesh circulated the programme contained in a document entitled 'Bangladesh mid-term food production plan' to the World Bank as well as other donor countries and agencies in March this year. The World Bank made the observation in a statement at the Bangladesh-aid-group meeting in Paris last month.

The Bank emphasised that 'ample availability' of inputs is 'vital to the success of the plan' and made six recommendations in this respect.

The recommendations are priority allocations of fund for the plan in the annual development programme, stepping up drilling programme of the deep tubewells, ensuring capacity utilisation of producing irrigation pumps locally, simplification of credit facilities to farmers, improvement of procurement and storage facilities for foodgrains in surplus areas and development of monitoring mechanism to check delay in the supply of inputs.

The mid-term food production plan aims at raising the country's annual food production to 18 million tons by the end of 1985. This quantity of foodgrains according to the plan will be adequate to feed an estimated million population in that year.

The plan envisages a total outlay of 5.7 billion dollar of which three billion dollar will be foreign exchange requirement.

The World Bank extended its support to implement the programme and added it will also 'encourage' donor countries and agencies to assist the Government in this regard.

The World Bank praised the Government performances this year in ensuring 'ample supplies' of irrigation, pumps and engines, fertiliser, diesel fuel and wheat seed. The World Bank said 'good progress' had also been made in the delivery of shallow tubewells although there had been 'substantial lags' in the delivery of deep tubewells. On the whole, it said it had been an auspicious year both in terms of Government's performances in providing adequate input supply to farmers and in terms of the achieved level of agricultural output.

ASIA, PACIFIC PARLEY ON AGRARIAN REFORM OPENS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 May 81 p 8

[Text] Rural Development Minister Abdul Halim Chowdhury on Tuesday called upon the countries of the Asian and Pacific region to exchange 'expertise and experience,' for eliminating poverty from the rural areas of the region says ENA.

He was inaugurating the seven-day second government consultation session for Asia and South-West Pacific on the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development in Dacca on Tuesday. The session is being participated by Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Denmark Fiji, Laos, India Indonesia Malaysia Nepal Pakistan The Philippines Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The inaugural session was presided over by Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Mrs Qumrunnahr Zafar and addressed by Mr R. R. Moreno Director, Human Resources Food and Agricultural Organisation.

Mr. Halim Chowdhury said, Bangladesh believed that land reform was necessary to achieve the desired goal of eliminating rural poverty and raising the standard of living of the rural people above the poverty line.

Mrs. Qumrunnahr [as published] Zafar in her presidential speech said emphasis has been given on improving the quality of life of the rural people in the Second Five year Plan through increased production. He said government has also taken up measures to minimise food gap and progressively eliminate [as published] rural poverty.

She expressed the hope that the participants in the session will focus on all the problems confronting rural development in the region.

Mr Moreno, Director, Human Resources Division of the FAO, expressed the hope that the deliberations at the current session will help evolve concrete programme for the next phase of agrarian reforms in the region.

He assured that the Food and Agricultural Organisation would extend all help to the countries of the region in the field of rural development. He said there is an urgent need for rural development efforts in the countries of the region and as such actions should be taken up by governments of the countries concerned towards that end.

CSO: 4220/7858

PABNA CENTER DEVELOPS NEW SUGAR CANE VARIETY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 81 p 10

[Text] Pabna, May 13--A new variety of sugarcane named as I-112, has been developed after prolonged research in the Sugarcane Research Centre of Ishurdi, Pabna which is the only sugarcane research center in the country.

It is expected that by putting this new variety of sugarcane throughout the country, an additional income to the tune of Taka 15 crore per year would be possible.

Dr Muhammad Shahjahan, Director, Sugarcane Research Centre of Ishurdi disclosed it in a Press conference recently. Dr Shahjahan said that this new variety of sugarcane was now awaiting approval of the government.

Replying to a question regarding the feasibility of increased sugar production in Bangladesh, Dr Muhammad Shahjahan told that sugar production could be increased if new and modern machinery were installed in the sugar mills.

Our sugarcane mostly dried up in the fields after harvesting since there was lack of arrangements for quick transshipment to mills from the fields. He said crushing is done within two hours of harvesting in various countries but there was no such arrangement in our country and for this reason sugar extraction was much below the expected quantity.

He hoped that the authorities would look into the matters in the interest of augmenting sugar production in the country.

CSO: 4220

GENE BANK FOR JUTE CULTIVATION PLANNED FOR DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 p 1

[Text] A gene bank first of its kind in the world will be set up in Bangladesh towards the end of this year to preserve jute seeds for breeding purposes reports BSS.

According to a Bangladesh Jute Research Institute source the bank will be provided with all the facilities to preserve at minus 20 degrees (Centigrade) all varieties of jute seeds-cultivated and wild available in the world in good condition for 20 years. The humidity will be maintained at 30 per cent.

The source said this would help maintain parental character of jute seeds and will be useful in future breeding works by the scientists. This will also ensure safety of the wild species of jute from extinction.

Establishment of the gene bank will also help in the interchange of various species of jute with other research laboratories in the world the source said.

At present there are 100 proven species of jute in the world only two of them are cultivated and the rest are wild the cultivated species are "White" (capsularies) and "Tosha" (olitorious).

Only two wild species of jute are available in Bangladesh. Among the cultivated species there are 2000 varieties of jute of which 1100 are capsularies and 900 are olitorious.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER TELLS JUTE INDUSTRY LOSSES, SUCCESSES

Questions in Parliament

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Minister for Jute, Mr Habibullah Khan, told the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Thursday that the jute mills of the country had suffered a loss of Tk 102.31 crore between July 1978 and June 1980 due to disruption in power supply.

Replying to a question by Mr Nizamuddin Khan, a Treasury Bench Member from Dacca, the Minister said that during 1978-79, there was a loss of three crore 10 lakh 84 thousand and 35 working hours resulting into a loss of Tk 36.70 crore due to erratic power supply. The following year, the jute mills suffered a loss of three crore 89 lakh 67 thousand and 891 working hours for the same reason and entailed a loss of Tk 65.61 crore, he said.

Export Earnings

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr Habibullah Khan, Minister for Jute, told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday that Tk 479.12 crore had been earned through export of 696 lakh tons of jute products during the current financial year, till April.

He was replying to a question by Prof Mofizul Islam a BJI member from Comilla at the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday.

In replying to another question by Principal Md Nuzrul Islam, an AL (H) member from Bakerganj, the Minister said that during the same period 16.47 lakhs bales or raw jute had been exported.

Replying to a question by Mr Md Imazuddin Pramanik, an AL (H) member from Rajshahi the Jute Minister said that the export targets for raw jute and jute products for 1980-81 were 25 lakh bales and 5.90 lakh tons respectively.

CSO: 4220/7863

'INDIA TODAY' EDITOR WRITES ON GANGES PROBLEMS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 May 81 pp 5, 6

[Article by Ajit Bhattacharjee]

[Text] Last month India's Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Rao Birendra Singh, a seasoned politician from Haryana, but with no previous knowledge of international negotiations, led the Indian delegation visiting Dacca for the third meeting held to review the five-year agreement on sharing and augmenting the flow of Ganga waters at Farakka signed in November 1977. The barrage is in Indian territory, but it regulates the quantum of water available to Bangladesh during the dry season from January to June.

As before, both sides were unable to find any common ground and they agreed to refer the issue to a "higher political level". On the Indian side, it was suggested that this meant a meeting between Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Asked in Dacca if the agreement would be extended beyond its expiry in 1982, Singh said that the matter would be taken up at the last review meeting scheduled to be held six months before the expiry of the agreement.

Bangladesh papers noted that no date had been fixed for the proposed "high-level meeting", nor did the agreed joint minutes of the review meeting specify who should be involved in it. The vagueness was interpreted as delaying tactics by India.

No Agreement: The Dacca meeting ended on April 4. The misunderstanding had deepened further before the week ended. Reacting sharply to Singh's statement in the Lok Sabha on April 7, in which he was reported to have blamed Bangladesh for being non-cooperative, an official spokesman of the Bangladesh Government said that the Indian minister's statements were "grossly tendentious and biased" and were bound to cast a shadow on future talks.

The spokesman went on to describe in detail the nature of the negotiations over the last six years after Mrs Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had issued a statement in 1974 calling for mutually acceptable measures to augment the Ganga dry season flows. He asserted that the course of events since then conclusively proved that it was India that was really responsible for the inability of the Joint River Commission of the two countries to agree on recommendations to this end.

The spokesman also made the point that the solution of the Farakka issue should be found within the Ganga waters sharing agreement signed in 1977 and the joint statement of the two prime ministers in 1974. He insisted that both Bangladesh and India were committed to approach Nepal jointly [as published] to study the long-term augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga with Nepal's participation, but this was now being obstructed by India in the name of bilateralism.

Distressed Attitude: The mood in Bangladesh as Singh left for New Delhi was bitter. Bangladeshis, whether sympathetic to or critical of President Zia's government leftist or conservative, were uniformly distressed with the Indian attitude. Those anxious to improve relations with India felt particularly let down.

People were seriously concerned with the impact that the drying up of water from the Ganga was having on the eastern part of their country which is watered by the river. Officials claimed that irrigation projects were being crippled, fresh water fish was disappearing, the Ganga estuary was silting up and industries and power projects dependent on fresh water were coming to a halt throughout the area. The process had begun after Farakka was commissioned in April 1975 but the situation had deteriorated rapidly in in [as published] the last dry season and was critical already, though the dry season would go on up to June.

Growing Crisis: Indeed a visit to the Kushtia region shows that their fears have basis. The Gorai river, the main channel taking off from the Ganga near Kushtia, is a sluggish trickle at the place where it separates from the main river. Fishing nets are stretched across it, but few fish are caught. According to official readings, the flow in the Gorai at this point is 300 cusecs as compared to 2,500 cusecs at the same time last year. Yet there are no obvious signs of crisis. In the light of the setting sun the water at the confluence seems plentiful. From a boat, however, the shallowness of the water is obvious with shifting shoals of silt just under the surface.

The intake channel of the big lift irrigation project at Bheramara, near the Hardinge rail bridge, is being deepened constantly by dredgers to keep the pumps going. Even so, the water is flowing very slowly into the pumps. The water level is three feet or more below the lowest marking on the pump-house gauge.

The threat facing Khulna port and the area upstream is increasing salinity and rapid silting. One of the biggest industries in the area is the Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) which export half its product to Calcutta. Its motor launch the Keora is being used as a tug to haul one or two ungainly water-carrying barges upriver to search and bring back the fresh water needed to keep the mill going one of the two units has already closed down. [as published]

Last fortnight, on a typical day, a KNM chemist tested the water close to the plant and found the chloride content to be 1,325 parts per million (ppm), far too high for drinking or irrigation. The people of Khulna are depending on deep tubewells, but even tubewell water is too brackish for the delicate newsprint and powerhouse machinery. The barge that fetches fresh water has to travel about 35 miles upstream before water with a low enough chloride content, 50 ppm, is found. Despite the growing crisis, KNM officials are determined to carry on.

Zigzag Approach: On the face of it, the disagreement between the governments of India and Bangladesh seems to be rooted in a tragic misperception of each other's motives and objectives. But on closer examination, it is clearly Mrs Gandhi's government that seems to be guilty of callously aggravating and exploiting the difficulties of a weak, ecologically-dependent neighbour to force it to accept New Delhi's diktat. International conventions governing the use of river waters and previous bilateral commitments are being misinterpreted for this purpose.

India's approach to Bangladesh has zigzagged four times in the 10 years since Bangladesh was liberated. First there was the period of total support during the liberation campaign and the liberation itself on December 16, 1971, when Indian troops helped newly-raised Bangladeshi guerillas and regular forces to free Dacca from Pakistani control. Many persons, including government officials in Dacca, still recall with gratitude the fact that Indian soldiers died to save their countrymen from the campaign of murder, rape and loot let loose by Pakistani soldiers and their local Al-Badr, Shams and Razakar collaborators.

Mrs Gandhi's role in the liberation and formation of Bangladesh is also recalled with gratitude. The help she gave Sheikh Mujib, who came to power after the liberation and the generous terms of the agreement signed with him on sharing the Ganga waters have not been forgotten. In fact, the agreement forms the basis of the Bangladesh case, but the gratitude is now tinged with bitterness.

Pressure Tactics: The second phase began after Sheikh Mujib's assassination on August 15, 1975. Mrs Gandhi's approach seemed to alter completely. Farakka became an instrument of pressure. At the same time Indian-trained guerillas were allowed to operate in Bangladesh and regain asylum in India. Unilateral Indian claims to offshore islands emerging on the maritime border between the two countries were pressed. As seen from Dacca, the overall Indian stance was one of embarrassing the Zia government as much as possible.

The third phase began with the defeat of Mrs Gandhi and the installation of the Janata Government in New Delhi. One of Morarji Desai's first decisions was to stop giving asylum to Bangladesh guerrillas engaged in harassing their country's armed forces. He also agreed to undertake a joint survey of Moore Island in the Bay of Bengal, which was claimed by both countries.

Although the Janata Government drove a harder bargain than Mrs Gandhi did with Sheikh Mujib, the accord signed in November 1977 forms the basis of the current five-year agreement on sharing and augmenting the Ganga waters, which was intended to pave the way for a long-term solution. This, Dacca insists, cannot be reached without involving Nepal, from where much of the water feeding the Ganga originates.

The fourth and current phase began with the return of Mrs Gandhi to power in January last year. As seen from Dacca, India is again resorting to pressure tactics. It has proposed and insists on Bangladesh accepting, a fantastic scheme to divert water from the Brahmaputra to the Ganga via a 300-kilometre canal, of which 100 kilometres will lie in Bangladesh originating and ending in Indian territory.

Diversion Problems: The canal will be half a mile wide and thirty feet deep, dug through hilly country and across major local rivers. No such canal has yet been dug anywhere in the world. Incidentally, it will also cut Bangladesh in

half. New Delhi insists that the link canal will serve the interests of Bangladesh. But Dacca doesn't see it that way, especially with New Delhi taking actions that seem designed to hurt rather than help Bangladesh.

According to Bangladesh calculations, no water will flow down the Ganga in 20 years if water continues to be diverted into ever-spreading canal systems in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Brahmaputra diversion is designed to provide the water that Bangladesh and West Bengal as the lower riparians will lose as a result. In other words, Bangladesh water will be diverted to flush Calcutta port and the rivers of western Bangladesh when the Ganga dries up completely. Meanwhile the diversion of some 10,000 cusecs from the Brahmaputra into the Ganga in the dry season would mean that the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra would suffer silting and salinisation--the same fate that the Ganga estuary is now facing.

Other actions that hurt Bangladesh sentiment include the unilateral seizure of Moore Island, although Dacca has produced evidence that according to international conventions, it should go to Bangladesh. India is also seen to be reluctant to import goods from Bangladesh and has refused to provide credits to aid Bangladesh development plans, aid which is being provided by many other countries, including Saudi Arabia and a consortium of western countries.

Mixed Development: As seen from Dacca, the overall impact of the current phase of the policies being followed by Mrs Gandhi's government is to force Bangladesh into the Islamic bloc and to improve relations with Pakistan. The pro-Pakistan Islamic Al-Badr and Al-Shama groups are acting again. The papers report almost daily clashes with old freedom fighters, with some being killed in a manner reminiscent of December 1971.

There are healthy developments as well. Popular reaction to Al-Badr activity is rising. On the first day of Baisakh (April 14) which is the official New Year's Day in Bangladesh a large crowd had gathered at dawn at the historic Ramna garden to hear a choir of sari clad young women and children sing Tagore's songs. Among them were the leading poets, musicians writers and academics of the country, as well as a few political leaders. Standing out among them was the tall burly figure of Kamal Husain, foreign minister of Sheikh Mujib's government, who had returned to his country after a long stay abroad following Sheikh Mujib's assassination.

Nobody could tell from their dress or appearance whether those gathered in the garden were Muslims or Hindus or Buddhists Bangladeshi nationalism was again asserting itself before the forces of religious hatred. [as published] But the tragedy is that New Delhi seems to be helping the communalists rather than the nationalists.

CSO: 4220/7861

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR MINERAL EXPLOITATION TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 May 81 p 3

[Text] A comprehensive scheme had been taken up to locate and exploit mineral resources during the Second Five-Year Plan.

This was stated by Mr Akbar Hossain Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources in Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question by Mr Profulla Kumar Shil an AL(H) Member from Khulna on Thursday.

The Minister said that during the past several years, the Directorate of Geological Survey conducted extensive survey in Mymensingh Sylhet Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts Comilla and Noakhali districts and determined the extent of reserve of white clay, glass sand shingles and limestone in those areas. Investigations were carried out in the northern parts of the country for coal hard stone and white clay.

The Minister said that during the Second Five-Year Plan period investigation work would be intensified further. The programme included compilation of regional geological map covering an area of 10 thousand square miles, geological survey of two thousand square miles drilling of 60 thousand feet of well for investigation purpose and compilation of geotechnical maps for some urban areas.

Extensive drilling programmes had been taken up on production sharing basis besides Petrobangla's wn [as published] project under a West German grant. Drilling would be carried out in Zakiganj Patharia Kamta Haripur and Sitakund this year he said.

The Petroleum Minister said that during the Second Five-Year Plan period, 14 new gas wells would be drilled in phases. The commissioning of these wells would raise the gas production to 550 mmcf per. At present the average gas production is 150 mmcf per day he said.

In reply to a question by Shah Mastajidul Huq (Khizir) a Treasury Bench Member from Tangail, the Minister said that the present yearly requirement of kerosene, petrol and diesel was 4,52 lakh tons 51 thousand tons and 4,27 lakh tons respectively.

In reply to a question by Mr A K M Akhtaruzzaman Alamgir a Treasury Bench Member from Patuakhali, the Petroleum Minister said that agreements were signed with

six foreign companies for oil exploration in the Bay of Bengal. After survey, these companies drilled eight wells and found gas in only one well.

He said that these companies were not working now and he was not aware as to why these companies had stopped their exploration work. All these companies had submitted their geophysical reports and well completion reports in time, he said.

CSO: 4220/7865

PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Petroleum Minister Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossain announced in the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that Government would take positive measures to reduce the wastage in the distribution and supply system of petroleum products.

Speaking on an adjournment motion on recent price rise of petrol and kerosene oil the Petroleum Minister admitted wastage in the existing system of distribution of petroleum products. He also acknowledged corruption in marketing of petroleum products in the country.

The Petroleum Minister justified the recent increase in the prices of petrol and kerosene oil by saying that the Government subsidy on petroleum products should be reduced by raising the prices of these items.

He said "the price was increased in good faith to provide relief to common people by raising the price and reducing the subsidy". He told the House that even after the recent increase in the price the Government was losing by giving subsidy on petroleum products of which Taka 73 crore could be recovered following the recent price rise. He stressed the need to withdraw total subsidy on petroleum products and spend the amount for the welfare of the people.

The adjournment motion was raised by Mr. Imajuddin Pramanik (AL-Hasina). Speaking on the motion the Opposition members criticised the repeated rise in the prices of petroleum products which they held would directly affect the common people. The Opposition members also blasted the Government policy to raise prices with executive order by bypassing the Parliament and ignoring the will of the people.

After an elaborate debate on the adjournment motion it was rejected by voice vote.

The Minister refuted an allegation of the Opposition members that the Government had failed to take proper measures in exploring oil in the country. He said that last year three drillings were made of which two were successful. This year, he added, programmes had been made to start drilling in four different spots.

Replying to a criticism of the Opposition members that the President had been wasting money in his foreign visits, the Petroleum Minister said that if the President had not visited foreign capitals Bangladesh could not get aids.

Participating in the debate on the adjournment motion, Mr. Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Hasina) said that the Government had been increasing prices of petroleum products while it totally failed to check wastage and control corruption in the marketing and supply system of these items.

In his speech, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon of Ganotantrik Andolan said that it was no wonder that the "Government for price-hike" had once again raised the prices of petroleum products without considering the hardship of the common people. He said that Government had been increasing the prices without taking any positive step for planned use of our own energy resources.

Mr. Taleb Ali (AL-Hasina) said that Government had raised the price without checking wastage. He said that Government had been increasing prices of different essential items before and after the Budget at the instance of the donor countries.

In his speech Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman (Gano Front) blamed the Government for not paying heed to the opinion and constructive suggestions of the Opposition members. He demanded proper and timely supply of petroleum products to consumers.

CSO: 4220/7873

DEPUTY PREMIER REPORTS LOSSES FROM POWER FAILURE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister who is in charge of the Ministry of Industries told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday that industrial units in the country had suffered a monetary loss of Tk 951.93 lakh due to power failure and load-shedding during the current fiscal year.

The Deputy Prime Minister who was replying to a question by Mr A. B. M. Taleb Ali AL (H) said 1,017,045 man-hours were lost during the current year due to load-shedding and power failure.

In reply to a question the DPM said there had been substantial improvement in the situation in comparison to the performances of the previous years.

He said government had no plan to instal generators in industrial units to overcome the power crisis as it would directly affect the power generating stations. He however said generators would be installed in mills where there was a chronic power shortage.

Mr. Akbar Hussain Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, told the Jatiya Sangsad during question hour on Thursday that government had taken in hand a comprehensive plan on an emergency basis to connect northern districts of the country with gas distribution line.

He assured the House that northern districts of the country would get gas connections within two years.

Mr Akbar Hussain replying to a question by Mr Almas Hussain said that gas connection to the other side of the Buriganga River would be given by the end of the coming fiscal year.

He said many brick fields in the private sector were using gas. He said brick fields using gas were producing better quality bricks and at a cheaper rate. He said brick fields using gas were being charged at commercial rate.

China with 2,09,992 bales was the biggest buyer of Bangladeshi jute upto April 81 of the current fiscal year. Pakistan with 1 84,400 bales and the Soviet Union with 1,06,311 bales were second and third.

Disclosing this during question hour at the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday the Jute Minister Mr Habibullah Khan said Bangladesh had exported 16,47,337 bales of jute during the same period and had earned Tk 1,60.52 crore.

The earning from the export of jute goods during the same period was Tk. 478.20 crore.

This was revealed in reply to a written question by Mr Imajuddin Pramanik of AL (H).

CSO: 4220/7862

MANPOWER MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prof M. A. Matin, Minister for Manpower Development told Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that the problem of unemployment in the country would be removed to a great extent by the end of Second Five-Year Plan period.

The Minister was replying to a resolution moved by the Workers Party member, Mr A. S. H. Rashed Khan Menon in which he demanded unemployment allowance for degree holder unemployed youth.

Prof Matin said that the Government had taken up programmes to impart vocational training. These programmes were designed to help self-employment and employment abroad, he said.

In various vocational training institutes in the country, 13 technical trainings were being given. Prof Matin said last year three thousand youths received training and this year the number has been increased to 20 thousand.

The Minister for Manpower Development said that all the gram sarkars, union parishad members and village defence party members were also being given training.

He said that the Government had recognised unemployment as one of the major problems and tried to address itself to problem as a whole including rural unemployment. The creation of Youth Development Ministry was the reflection of Government's desire to solve the problem. No Government in the past had created such a ministry.

Prof Matin said that unemployment allowance would not be able to solve the problem. As such the Government had taken up various training programmes to enable the youths to engage themselves in profitable self-employment.

He expressed the hope the entire population of the country would be turned into manpower in future.

Menon

Earlier moving the resolution Mr Menon said that he wanted unemployment allowance for all the unemployed youths. In order to make his resolution admissible he had to demand allowance for only unemployed degree holders.

He said that with one third of the population unemployed, the problem was not only a social problem but also a political one.

Mr Menon called for proper measures to create job opportunities and said that under the existing economic system unemployment problem could not be solved. He further said that unemployment allowance would not solve the problem but it would make the Government responsible for providing job.

He also mentioned introduction of such allowance in Indian states of West Bengal and Kerala.

Asaduzzaman

Awami League member Mr Asaduzzaman said that without socialist system of society, the problem of unemployment could not be solved. Social justice could not be ensured in the present social system.

Moving amendments to the resolution AL member Imajuddin Pramanik demanded fixation of Taka 500 per month as unemployment allowance, Ekota Party member Suranjit Sengupta demanded Taka 300 and BNP member Anisuzzaman Khokon demanded Taka 100 to be fixed as unemployment allowance per month.

BNP member and Whip Mrs Farida Rahman said that the Government had already identified the problem and had taken measures to solve it.

She said that the proposers of the resolution and amendments had not mentioned where from this money would come.

Earlier when the House resumed its sitting after short adjournment at the end of question hour with Deputy Speaker Mr Sultan Ahmed in the chair, Mr Suranjit Sengupta with the permission from the chair moved a call attention notice on behalf of JSD member Abdul Latif Mirza and another resolution tabled by NAP member Prof Muzaffar Ahmed.

State Minister for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control Mr L. K. Siddiqi made a statement on Mr Mirza's call attention notice.

During this period an adjournment motion on price increase of essential commodities moved by AL member Mr A. B. M. Taleb Ali failed to get the leave of the House. There were in all 16 Opposition members present in the House at that time. Support of 25 members are required to get the leave of the House. [as published]

The Jatiya Sangsad on Monday condoled the death of journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal when the day's first sitting began in the morning with Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz in the chair.

CSO: 4220/7871

ARMED INDIAN GANGS INFILTRATE BORDER AREAS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 May 81 pp 1,8

[Text] Jessore, May 5: Infiltration of organised armed Indian gangs have again increased in border areas of Jessore district and are indulging in cowlifting, dacoity and harassment of Bangladesh nationals.

According to information a group of Indian miscreants crossed into village Shikri under Sarma police station on April 17 and decamped with a pump set worth Taka 16,500 which belonged to Mohammad Safdar Ali Biswas. They not only assaulted two persons engaged in guarding the machine but also compelled the guards to carry the pump upto border. There the miscreants tied the guards with a date tree and crossed the border with the machine in a boat. One of the miscreants was recognised as Nepal Chandra, a cousin of notorious Indian dacoit Khirode. Later on persuasion said Khirode reportedly admitted the complicity and disclosed that the pump could be returned on payment of Taka 4,500 through their agent one Omar Ali Biswas.

The owner later lodged a complaint with Sarma police station and also informed local camps of Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security Force.

He also appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of Jessore and Commanding Officer of Jessore Rifles battalion to arrange the return of the machine.

When contacted the Commanding Officer of Bangladesh Rifles battalion told pressmen that they were yet to receive any official complaint of the incident.

CSO: 4220

DEPUTY PREMIER DESCRIBES PLANS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Government has sanctioned foreign investment to the tune of Taka one hundred 25 crore in the private sector during the last couple of years Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed said in Dacca on Friday reports BSS.

The sanctions were made for a total of 53 projects most of which are in joint venture.

Addressing the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (CAB), the Deputy Prime Minister who is in charge of the Ministry of Industries asserted that a remarkable improvement was visible in the investment climate both in private and public sectors.

As a result of the Government's pragmatic industrial investment policy, Mr Jamaluddin said 'we are now emerging as a country of possibilities and patentabilities among all the developing countries of the world.'

He described the present political situation as conducive to the happy development of the country's industrial sector, 'today everybody looks upon Bangladesh as a country with stability.'

The Deputy Prime Minister elaborated four basic conditions for foreign investment in the industrial sector:

- Technology based industries for transfer of technology.
- Export-oriented industries that will put the country's products in the export market.
- Industries based on locally available raw materials.
- Industries that will generate employment.

'We want foreign investment in those areas which will help us,' Mr Jamaluddin said. [letters garbled] the industrial sector in the post independence years when 'wrong policies' together with the then political and economic scenario had resulted in a total anarchy.

After the independence the party in power had introduced sweeping changes, the Minister said, the rigorous of which were being felt in the industrial sector.

As a result complications arose, labour unrest started production fell and on the whole there was a trend of negative growth in the industrial sector.

Mr Jamaluddin said that during the past regime, the private sector was totally destroyed while the public sector was crippled and businessmen swung overnight from investment to trading.

Since the political changes in November 1975 the new Government under the present leadership came with a new package of incentives which made things moving, the Deputy Prime Minister said.

With the lifting of Martial Law, he said political stability came which created confidence for investment among people both from home and abroad.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the present Government had been successful to a great extent to streamline the public sector where productivity improved considerably. Likewise, he asserted, the private sector responded well and the investment figure was up.

Except for the manpower sector Mr Jamaluddin observed, there was marked improvement in each sector of the economy.

Today, the emerging picture of the country, the Deputy Prime Minister said is that 'we are not really poor but we have tremendous possibilities.' What is lacking he said, 'is total mobilisation of all our plus points Mr Jamaluddin said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the infrastructure for the proposed export processing zone near Chittagong had been built and soon application would be invited for allotting land. He hoped the first response for allotment would be oversubscribed.

Mr Jamaluddin thought it would take to 24 months for setting up industries in the zone and hoped that by June 1984 some of the industries would come up.

He claimed that the present Government had completed all the projects inherited from the preindependence days.

Replying to a question, he said General Electric Manufacturing (GEM) plant at Chittagong was expected to produce 2500 electrical transformers this year on the basis of a hundred per cent local expertise and labour. Next year the plant has planned to produce 7 500 transformers and in two years entire requirement of the item for rural electrification programme and Power Development Board would be produced by GEM, he said.

He said electric motors would be produced in the plant in collaboration with a foreign company. The Deputy Prime Minister also spoke about the production position of machine tools factory which he said had a comprehensive plan for manufacturing textiles machinery, turbine engines and pumps. It was already producing diesel engine and power tillers he added.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REPORTS ON VISIT TO EEC AREA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 May 81 pp 1,12

[Text] The European Economic Community (EEC) has reiterated its interest and continued support for economic development of Bangladesh, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed said on Tuesday reports BSS.

He told newsmen on return to Dacca Tuesday afternoon ending a week-long visit to four EEC capitals, that Bangladesh's progress in the political economic and social fields was highly appreciated by the governments and business leaders. "They have a much better appreciation of us now" he added.

Mr Ahmed who led a 12-member industrial delegation said that the EEC officials and government and business leaders in Belgium, France, Denmark and the United Kingdom were particularly happy over the performance of the Bangladesh economy last year in which gross domestic products rose by 7.2 per cent and agricultural production by 15 per cent, "this was thought as marvelous compared to many developing countries" he added.

In Belgium, the Deputy Prime Minister held a three and a half hour-long meeting with EEC officials in two sessions during which he explained the economic, political and social progress made in Bangladesh including the Second Five Year Plan. Besides, he had a 65-minute audience with Belgian King and held "useful and frank" discussions with senior government leaders including Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Foreign Trade Minister and Economic Ministers.

While appreciating Bangladesh's internal economic progress and her role in international field the Belgian King told Mr Ahmed that he (King) was eagerly looking forward for his proposed visit to Bangladesh.

The Deputy Prime Minister and members of the delegation held two meetings with representatives of over 100 leading companies from Germany, Holland, Switzerland and Belgium in Brussels. They were briefed on investment possibilities, climate and opportunities offered by Bangladesh.

Mr Ahmed said that the representatives had shown very keen interest in setting up joint ventures in gas-based industries, leather fishing, paper and pulp engineering complexes, electrical and electronic components, animal feed and agro-based industries. "Some of these projects will materialise soon," he added.

In Paris Mr Ahmed held a meeting with the Association of French Industries and discussed prospect of industrial cooperation and investment. In this context, he said that a French team headed by a Minister will visit Bangladesh in September to discuss setting up of joint ventures.

Referring to his talks with Danish Government leaders and business representatives, the Deputy Prime Minister said that there was a very good prospect of having joint ventures with the Nordic countries. He said that he had meetings with entrepreneurs of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark during his visit to Copenhagen. He disclosed that a strong delegation of Federation of Danish Industry will visit Bangladesh in October.

In the United Kingdom Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed met the State Minister for Industry and held discussions with several groups of British industries who were interested in gas-based sectors. He said a few proposals in the United Kingdom for joint ventures in Bangladesh were being finalised by the Director General of Industries Mr Rashidul Hassan who had stayed back.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that a group of Swiss firms had also indicated their strong desire to set up tyre manufacturing, electronic industries including colour television and communication apparatus. They also indicated their interest to set up color television picture tube plant in Chittagong export processing zones which involves very sophisticated technology.

Position of Bangladesh in Europe is far better today than it was a few years back, he said. Moreover he added, the stability of the Government political transformation from Martial Law to democratic system better economic management and a very pragmatic role in the international field were considered as very important factors.

The delegation included Mr A.K.M. Ziauddin, MP, Mr A.S.F. Rahman, Mr Morshed Khan, Mr Nurunnabi, Mr Abdul Khair and Mr Karam Ali.

CSO: 4220

SEMINAR DISCUSSES MISMANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The necessity of associating workers' representatives with the process of planning and execution of programmes for raising industrial production was emphasised at the national seminar on "Labour law and its problems in Bangladesh" on Monday.

Speakers at the seminar emphatically asserted that a prerequisite for increased production was that the workers should clearly know why, for whom and for what were they to work harder.

Over 60 leaders and representative from 22 trade union and professional union organisations are participating in the four-day seminar organised by the Dacca Union of Journalists.

Two papers on "Historical development of trade union in Bangladesh" and "Enterprise-level labour relations and productivity in Bangladesh" were presented at the first and second seminar sessions on Monday by Mr Anisuddin Khan, General Secretary, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha and Mr M. H. Chowdhury, Programme Officer ILO, Dacca respectively.

Monday's two sessions were presided over by Mr Nirmal Sen Assistant Editor, DAINIK BANGLA and Mr Hasanuzzaman Khan, Chief News Editor, BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA respectively.

The participants at the seminar attacked the problems of mismanagement and corruption in the industries and were of the view that malpractices in procurement of raw materials and spare parts in the enterprises often drained away whatever the workers contributed for improvement of the financial conditions of the mills.

They said that the existing system did not trust the workers and their abilities to increase production. Instead trust was reposed on bureaucrats or ex-mill owners who lacked entrepreneurial qualities.

The participants at the seminar opined that the managements of the nationalised industries and factory owners and managers in Bangladesh were production-oriented with inadequate concern for the welfare of the workers and employees. The personnel management policies concerned mainly with hiring and firing of workers, they said.

Wages

While pointing out that the present wage structure of workers was not in keeping with the cost of living index, They also said that even the introduction of production bonus in some of the enterprises could not generate enthusiasm among workers because it was not clearly specified by any law or regulation as to who were entitled to such incentives. [as published]

They said that under the present system production bonus was drawn by all employees right from the top executive of the enterprises down to a peon, no matter who were directly connected with production.

They observed that while in industrially developed countries only the workers, technicians and mechanics--directly connected with production--were allowed production bonus or other incentives, In Bagladesh, managers and clerical staff who in some cases did not even see the products by their own eyes were allowed such benefits. [as published]

Managerial Competence

Meanwhile, the managerial competence in the nationalised industries was seriously questioned by the participants at the seminar. They said, as there was no well-designed programme for development of necessary managerial personnel this gap was being filled by the membes [as published] of the bureaucracy, And since the career civil servat maximised his service performance in terms of his overall career record, he was under no compulsion to perform well and faced no sanction for failure beyond a transfer to a more suitable and less exacting post in the Secretariat they said. [as published]

The participants suggested that capable professionals rather than career civil servants be selected for managerial jobs in the enterprises and it was also necessary to examine if a cadre strvice [as published] could be introduced for the purpose.

They also noted that the existence of multiple unions at the plan level stood in the way of establishment of rights of the workers as there were rivalries and infighting among such unions. They participants thus suggested that there should be only one union at the plant level. [as published]

Guard Against Politicalisation

The participants also called fir [as published] guarding against too much politicalisation of the labour unions so much so that in the name of party politics many important workers movements were spoilt at the embryonic stage. While recognising the necssity [as published] of political awareness of the workers, the participants suggested that the fights of the trade unions should be more based on class interests than on policies of political parties.

They noted with concern the development of districtism among the workers which, they opined, were the outcome of manoeuvres of a handful of fortune seeking trade union leaders. Such worker leaders resorted to corruptions while they lead unions, but if their reelection is threatened due to their own misdeeds, they

fostered districtism or established rival unions thus creating disunity among the workers, they said.

Rahman, Dulal

The trade union leaders at the seminar demanded stern measures against those who created tensions and disturbances among the workers with the aim of gaining leadership. In this connection they demanded punishment of the killers of labour leader Abdur Rahman and journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal.

Some of the participants [as published] demanded a single wages commission for the workers and employees and other offices [as published] and trade union rights for government employees in keeping [as published] with ILO recommendations.

Correct History

Earlier in the first session the necessity of compiling a comprehensive history of trade union movement by upholding the struggle of the working people Bangladesh in different democratic and national movements was underlined by the participants.

They observed that whatever concessions the workers of Bangladesh were now enjoying did not come automatically. Behind each and every concession lay glorious struggle of the workers of the country.

They urged all trade union organisations to make efforts for compilation of a correct history of the development of trade unionism in Bangladesh and to keep up-to-date records of different workers' movements in the country.

Those who took part in discussion in Monday's two seminar sessions were: Messrs Lutfar Rahman of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, Anwar Hossain of Sramik Kalyan Federation Nasim Ali of Gonotantrik Sramik Movement Quamrul Aman of Jatiya Sramik Federation Mohammad Ismail a lawyer Manirul Islam of Jatiya Sramik Jote Mahbubul Islam of Jatiya Sramik Jote Misir Ahmed Bhuiyan of Jatiya Sramik Dal Syed Aminul Islam a lawyer Abdul Matin of Dacca Union of Journalists Nurur Rahman of Gonotantrik Sramik Andolan Chowdhury B Alam of Jatiya Sramik Jote A B M Farukh and Rezaul Karim of Dacca University Teachers' Association Mohiuddin of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Mahbubul Huq a lawyer Mr Sunil Paul of Jatiya Sramik League Faizullah Khandkar of Sanjukta Sramik Federation and Shawkat Hossain of Trade Union Centre.

Today's (Tuesday) programme of the seminar includes two sessions on "Labour law and its problem in Bangladesh" beginning at 9 a m Mr Nirmal Sen Assistant Editor DAINIK BANGLA will present the main paper on the topic while the sessions will be presided over by Mr Santosh Gupta Assistant Editor of DAILY SANGBAD. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7857

CLOSING DAY OF LABOR LAW SEMINAR DESCRIBED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 May 81 p 8

[Text] The four-day seminar on "labour laws of Bangladesh and their problems" ended at the National Press Club on Wednesday with a call to further rationalise the labour laws keeping in view the needs of the country.

The seminar was organised by the Dacca Union of Journalists which was participated by about 60 labour leaders representing various national labour organisations.

It was decided that the recommendations of the seminar would be finalised at a special meeting of the participating labour leaders at the National Press Club on May 26 and the they would be made public the following day through a Press conference. [as published]

Three working papers were placed at the seminar on Wednesday. These were: "the role of the collective bargaining agent (CBA) and Labour Court in settling labour disputes" by Mr Ismail Khan, a labour law expert, [as published] "Child labour, a social problem" by Dr M. Moslehuddin, Assistant Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, Dacca University and "industrial democracy" by Mr Md Solaiman, a trade unionist.

The morning session was presided over by Mr Abdul Matin, a member of the executive committee of DUJ while Mr Nazrul Islam, a member of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) presided over the second session. The concluding session was presided over by Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, President, DUJ.

Those who participated in the discussion included Messrs Misir Ahmed Bhuiyan of Jatiya Sramik Dal, Mr Lutfar Rahman of Trade Union Federation, Nasim Ali of Gonotantrik Sramik Andolan, Kamrul Aman of Jatiya Sramik Federation, Chowdhury Badrul Alam of Jatiya Sramik Jote, A. B. M. Anwar Hossain of Sramik Kalyan Federation, Monirul Islam of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Mahiuddin Ahmed and Dayal Chandra Rajbanshi of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh Newspapers Employees Federation, Sushil Kumar Paul of Jatiya Sramik League and Shah Ataul Islam of Trade Union Federation.

CSO: 4220/7861

EFFECTS OF INDIAN USE OF UPSTREAM RIVER WATERS NOTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr. B. M. Abbas A. T. former Presidential Adviser, said in Dacca on Sunday that use of water of the rivers upstream in India adversely affected the behaviours of the river system in Bangladesh and prejudiced the water and agricultural development in Bangladesh.

In a paper presented at a seminar organised by the Islamic Economic Research Bureau, Mr. Abbas said that without implementation of a basin development plan by involving three countries, Bangladesh, India and Nepal, the worst effects of the floods would not be contained within Bangladesh by flood regulation through the construction of river Embankments and improvement of drainage.

Mr. Abbas suggested for the construction of barrages accross the rivers Brahmaputra and the Ganges to increase the irrigated area to meet the urgent task of raising food production in the country. [as published]

7.3 M Acres Dependent on Ganges

He said that about 11 million arcres [as published] of land with a net irrigable area of 7.3 million acres were dependent on the Ganges waters and its full irrigational development would require 46 Million Acre Feet (MAF) annually. In the month of April alone, 8.6 MAF equivalent to 1,25,000 cusecs flow rate, was needed.

He said that total water requirement was far in excess of the supply in the Ganges during the dry season.

Mr. Abbas said that about 18.3 million acres of land were dependent on the waters of the Brahmaputra. The irrigation requirement alone was much above the available water in the river during dry seasons, he said.

He said that the utilization of "whatever flow" available in the Ganges during the dry season was possible only by a barrage accross [as published] the river. He said that the barrage would provide irrigation benefits to the south western zone of Bangladesh comprising the whole or part of the districts of Rajshahi Pabna, Faridpur, Kushtia Jessore; Khulna Barisal and Patuakhali.

Mr Abbas said that a barrage across (as published) the Brahmaputra was necessary to irrigate areas on both the banks of the river lying in the districts of Rangpur Bogra Pabna Mymensingh Tangail and Dacca districts.

He cautioned that increasing withdrawal of river water in the upstream for irrigation would induce further advance of salt water inland. Therefore he said, it would require embanking the large estuaries as far upstream as the salt water intrudes and closing the minor estuaries along the coastal area with control structures across them.

Mr Abbas suggested that more attention be paid to the waters of the Brahmaputra which he said was the major source of water to Bangladesh.

He said that the major rivers--The Meghna Brahmaputra and Ganges--could not develop all the land potential in its own basis with the present low flows, even the salt water intrusion in the lower Meghna could not be checked. He said that until the flows of these three major rivers could be augmented (as published) by basin development, the existing water resources have to be conserved and utilized economically.

Mr Abbas suggested that plans be formulated to exploit available ground water to the extent feasible in conjunction with river water in a co-ordinated manner.

He stressed the need for proper motivation at different levels, effective organisation, requisite co-ordination and necessary reforms in the land system for effective water development in Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7853

INDIA SEEKS PERMISSION FOR RAILWAY TRANSIT ROUTE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] New Delhi May 24.--The Indian government has approached Bangladesh for permission to run trains from Radhikapur to Akhaura through Bangladesh territory reports BSS.

Technical delegations from two countries met here in February last but serious differences emerged over the modalities of the train movement through Bangladesh territory according to Indian Railway Minister Kedar Pandey.

He told a Press conference here Friday that Indian delegation had asked Bangladesh to permit custom sealed Indian trains to pass through Bangladesh in way to Akhaura adjoining the Tripura capital of Agartala.

India sought an arrangement under which the engine wagons and the crew of the trains would be Indian and Bangladesh would be paid haulage charges for letting the trains use its track.

Bangladesh side was not very enthusiastic about the idea and was keen to transport Indian goods by its own trains from Radhikapur to Akhaura where it would be transhipped again into Indian trains said Mr M. S. Gujral Chairman of Indian Railway Board present in the Press conference.

He said Bangladesh suggestions involving transshipment was not acceptable to India as the goods 'easily be stolen' during the transit. But both delegation had agreed it was possible to have an arrangement for moving Indian goods by rail through Bangladesh. [as published]

The Railway Ministry has informed the External Affairs Ministry about the discussions and requested to take up the matter at government level with Bangladesh Mr Gujral added.

CSO: 4220/7868

PROGRESS IN FOOD WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCTION REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 81 p 1

[Text] Mr Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Deputy Minister for Food said in Dacca on Thursday that the construction work of 324 food godowns with a total capacity of 1,66,000 tons had so-far been completed, says a PID handout.

Reviewing the progress of the construction work of godowns at a meeting of the Project Review and Implementation Committee held in Dacca on Thursday the Deputy Minister said that the Ministry of Food had taken up 9 projects under which 824 godowns would be built in different parts of the country during the current fiscal year.

Explaining the shortage of government owned storage facilities in view of the highest volume of internal procurement made during this year, Mr Hossain said that Government had procured 9.35 lac tons of foodgrains from July 1 last year for which a large number of private godowns were not suitable for storage of foodgrains and as a result of which Government was facing problems to store foodgrains there for a long time.

The Minister directed the concerned construction agencies to speed up the work so that the proposed physical target could be achieved. It was informed in the meeting that the construction work of about more 415 godowns were expected to be completed by June this year. (as published)

Besides the Deputy Minister also had a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Food and asked them to be more vigilant so that the procurement of Boro and distribution of foodgrains might not be hampered.

CSO: 4220

KUWAIT GRANTS LOAN FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 May 81 p 1

[Text] A loan agreement for Kuwaiti dinar eight million (equivalent to US dollars 29 million approximately) was signed on Saturday last in Kuwait between Bangladesh and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to assist in the finance of eight rural electrification projects in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

A Press release on Tuesday said a project agreement was also signed between the fund and Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board for the execution and operation of the project.

The External Resources Division in Dacca said both the agreements were signed on behalf of Bangladesh by Mr M. A. Berek, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait, Mr Sayeed Abdul Latiefy Al Hamed Chairman of Kuwait Fund Board of Directors and the Minister of Finance and Planning on behalf of Kuwait.

The project aims at providing electricity in eight rural areas, within each of which a rural electric society for operation of the electric system will be established. The project will provide the necessary electric power needed urgently for such development project in the rural areas, as pumping units and stations for irrigation and for development of rural areas in general. The execution of the project will commence in July, 1981 and is expected to be completed in June 1985.

The loan is for a period of 32 years including a grace period of seven years. It bears interest at 1.5 per cent per annum in addition to 0.5 per cent per annum to cover administrative and other expenses to be incurred in the implementation of the loan agreement.

CSO: 4220

PETROLEUM MINISTER SPEAKS TO BPC EMPLOYEES' UNION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 May 81 p 8

[Text] Petroleum Minister Lt.-Col. (Retd.) Akbar Hossain on Wednesday called upon workers and employees of the nationalised sector corporations to exercise their trade union rights judiciously.

Mr Akbar Hossain was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly-elected Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Employees' Union at the BPC headquarters in city.

The Petroleum Minister urged the various unions to always bear the socio-economic realities of the country in mind while putting forward their demands and pressing for their acceptance. He called upon them to be logical in their attitude and disciplined in their approach.

The Minister regretted that in the recent past some unionists in the nationalised sector corporations and their units had set very bad precedences by being extremely unruly. "Some had even gone to the extent of intimidating their management with stenguns," the Minister told the audience.

Indiscipline

The Minister pointed out that indiscipline and disloyalty occurred in those nationalised units where corruption had been rampant.

He deplored that owing to some corrupt people and the unruly behavior of some unionists it looked as though 'nationalisation' (as published) was undesirable. This he emphasised, was far from the truth. "It is owing to our faulty behaviour that nationalisation is being given a bad name," he said.

The Minister cautioned that unless the workers and employees exercised their rights lawfully and in a disciplined manner, these rights 'may be lost to a fascism or a martial law.'

He assured the employees of BPC that their demands would be favourably looked into, mainly because those were genuine and the employees had placed them in a disciplined and peaceful manner.

He called upon the BPC employees to form a committee of their own to solve their housing problems. He assured them of all possible Government help.

Realities

The Minister told the employees that they must realise the realities of the day, including the socio-economic conditions of the people and the Government.

He pointed out that the Government had practised extreme restraint in matters of raising prices of petroleum products. But even after all that restraint, he said, prices of petroleum products had gone quite beyond the reach of the people and the Government had to incur a loss of Tk. 85 crore per annum in the petroleum sector alone.

He urged the workers and employees to be tolerant and to live upto the time honoured values. He regretted that of late indiscipline and discourteousness had reached their lowest ebbs in society. He referred to the 'Pahala Baishakh incidents in the university campus' terming them as the most shameful and condemnable episode in our history.

He pointed out that on that night the University students had tried to forcibly enter the women's halls and had indulged in all sorts of indecent acts to insult their own sisters.

Lt. Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain said 'if those University students wished to dishonour their own sisters in the halls why don't they start it right from their own homes.'

He regretted that none of the political leaders had condemned or censured the University students for this shameless behaviour, 'because, they wish to use the students for their own political ends.'

Presided over by Mr Nasimuddin Ahmed, Chairman of BPC, the installation ceremony was also addressed by Mr Mohrad Waiz Director, planning and training BPC, Mr Shahidullah, the outgoing President of the Union Mr Shyamolendu Das, the Vice President Mr Naimuddin Ahmed President and Mr Tofazzal Hossain, General Secretary of the Union.

In his address, Mr Naimuddin Ahmed the newly-elected President of the Union, called for instituting a vigilance team to check corruption in the petroleum sector. He also called for revising the Petroleum Act of 1934 (which was once revised in 1952).

CSO: 4220

PLANS FOR BAKHRABAD GAS FIELD DEVELOPMENT TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 May 81 p 1

[Text] The drilling operation of the second well at the Bakhrabad gas field started on Friday, reports BSS.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed formally inaugurated it at a simple ceremony.

According to estimate, the Bakhrabad gas field, the biggest in the country, has a proven gas reserve of 2.75 trillion cubic feet.

Official sources said, in the next two years five more wells will be drilled in the field, the first exploratory well of the gas field was dug in late 1968.

The sources said, the gas field is being developed with financial assistance from World Bank, OPEC fund and the Japanese government for transmission of gas to Chittagong via Comilla, Laksham and Feni.

The transmission line, under the development project, will be 110 miles long with a capacity of supplying 300 million cubic feet gas per day a total number of 12 wells will be required to be developed to feed the total capacity of transmission line. The sources said, the country will be able to save twenty per cent of imported fuel when the gas field will be pressed into operation.

When contacted experts expressed the hope that the proven gas reserve in the Bakhrabad gas field might increase after detailed appraisal.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER OPENS IMPORTERS CONVENTION AT CHITTAGONG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 May 81 p 5

[Text] Chittagong, May 8: Chowdhury Tahir Ahmed Siddiqui State Minister for Commerce on Wednesday called upon the importers to help identify those who are dealing in contraband goods which is detrimental to the national economy, reports BSS.

He said that unless the members of the business community were honest and had a spirit of sacrifice all efforts of the Government in building up the economy would go in vain.

Mr Siddiqui was inaugurating the two-day national convention of Bangladesh Importers here on Wednesday morning. The convention is being held in two sessions on Wednesday, Mr Shafiur Rahman, President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presided over the inaugural session attended by over 200 importers from all over the country.

Import Policy

He said the Government had liberalised the import policy in order to give relief to the importers as well as consumers. The importers, he said should avail the opportunities extended by the Government and ensure maximum utilisation of imported raw materials. He called for evaluation of import of raw materials, their utilisation and goods produced. He said that the Government and the importers had a responsibility to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people by ensuring easy and smooth supply of consumer goods.

Basic Points

Explaining the different aspects of an import policy Mr Siddiqui said that Government had to face three basic points in this respect which are importers want a liberal import policy, industrialists want raw materials not finished goods and consumers want goods at cheaper prices.

He said the Government had to maintain a balance among the three interests in framing an import policy.

Mr Tanvir Ahmed stated that a new import policy would be announced in two months time and that it would have to be framed keeping in view the interests of the importers, industrialists and consumers. He pointed out that an increase in the

import bill would not solve the problems. Rather proper utilisation of imported raw materials and goods had to be ensured to the benefit of all people.

Contraband Goods

The State Minister for Commerce was critical of the persons responsible for marketing contraband goods in the country and said that there was a class of people who were trying to frustrate the import policy. By selling and using contraband goods, we are showing disrespect to the law of the land he said and added one class was taking undue advantage of these contraband goods and they have to be identified.

Mr Siddiqui said that the Government would take appropriate measures to check the flow of contraband goods and in this respect he sought the cooperation of the importers and the people.

Import Substitute Industries

Mr Siddiqui also called upon the owners of the import substitute industries to have an evaluation of their performances. He said that permission was accorded to import substitute industries in the hope that they would gradually help lessen import. These industries, he said had been given liberal licences so that they could produce consumer goods for the country.

He said that directives had been given to evaluate the utilisation of raw materials, production and price positions of the import substitute industries.

The State Minister pointed out that over 30 per cent of the import bill goes for petroleum products. He said that the country was now getting 18 per cent and 40 to 50 per cent less prices from jute goods and leather products respectively because of low prices in the international market.

He said that the Government would extend necessary help to export oriented industries and export substitute industries if they could ensure reasonable prices for their products. He said the Government would take suggestions on Wage Earners Scheme.

Mr Siddiqui called upon the members of the business community to cooperate with the Government in implementing various development programmes.

Mrs Qamrun Nahai Zafar Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives, Dr Anwar Hussain, an industrialist, Mr Nuruddin Ahmed, President of Dacca Chamber and Mr Matiur Rahman secretary Ministry of Commerce also spoke in the inaugural session.

CSO: 4220

NATION'S IMPORTERS CONVENE IN CHITTAGONG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 81 pp 1,8

[Text] Chittagong May 6:--The two-day national convention of Bangladesh importers got off to auspicious start here today with a call to work out more pragmatic import policies in future.

State Minister for Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui inaugurated the convention this morning. It was sponsored by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The inaugural session was presided over by Mr Shafiur Rahman President of Chittagong Chamber. Among others Deputy Minister, Mrs Quamrunnahar Jafar President of Dacca Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Muruddin Ahmed Commerce Secretary, Mr Matiur Rahman and Dr Anwar of Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry addressed the convention.

Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui in his inaugural speech called upon the traders to identify the dishonest business men and foil their nefarious activities. The dishonest traders he said import the goods in collusion with custom and port and make business on the sufferings of common people.

The State Minister urged the traders to speak and criticise freely in the convention and point out faults and achievements of the Government. He said that everybody has got the right to speak the truth under this democratic government and elected President.

Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui hoped that the traders imbued with the spirit of nationalism would play their due role to stabilise [as published] the price and contribute their mite to develop the economy of the country.

Turning to the Import Policy the State Minister said that the Government had made provision for Taka 2 600 crore worth import in the current Import Policy. The next import policy would have more allocation keeping in view the necessity he added.

Mr Siddiqui assured all cooperation for setting up industry under import substitute scheme. But the industrialists would have to show how much contribution they made to stabilise the price and minimise the import, he added.

The State Minister hoped that the participants in the convention would work out pragmatic recommendations. The decision of this convention would be outlined for the next import policy he added.

The Deputy Minister Mrs Quamrunnahar Jafar in her speech underscored the need for proper evaluation of import policy in the greater economic interest of the country.

Besides the high officials and educationists about 300 industrialists from all over the country participated in the convention.

In all 30 papers on import trade and commerce will be presented in the convention.

CSO: 4220

WORK COMPLETED ON CHITTAGONG EXPORT ZONE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 May 81 p 12

[Text] Asia's new investment centre--what the people behind the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) project call it--is now ready for take off following the completion of the development of its 106 acres of land to be let out to the investors, reports BSS.

The CEPZ, first of its kind in the country, is designed to attract foreign investment with assured infrastructural facilities and related services in the zone area with 5 year tax holiday and guarantee of full repatriation of profits and capitals.

By law foreign private investments are secured in Bangladesh. Foreign Private Investment Act of 1980 guarantees protection, fair and equitable treatment to this kind of investment.

The zone, located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal is 1.5 miles from the principal Sea Port of Chittagong and 3.5 miles from the main business centre of Chittagong city. The master plan of the zone was drawn on 658 acres with provision for expansion to 1000 acres.

Bangladesh with its huge and cheap manpower resource, is considered a land of great potentialities. The availability of adequate number of relatively cheap trained and easily trainable labour force will help production at a comparatively low cost.

Official sources said three types of investment would be encouraged in the CEPZ. They include hundred per cent foreign owned projects joint venture projects and projects by Bangladeshis residing in Bangladesh and in other countries.

Mainly manufacturing and assembling units for exports will be given permission to set up their enterprises in the zone area. The industries could be based either on local or imported raw materials.

The goods that will be produced in the zone area will enjoy complete exemption from payment of excise and export duties. Entrepreneurs will be allowed to import freely into the zone area the capital machinery spares and related equipment and raw materials.

The official sources said employment of foreign technicians wherever required would be allowed. Their salaries will be exempted from the payment of Income Tax for a period of three years provided such salaries are not taxed outside Bangladesh.

The management of the CEPZ is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority and autonomous statutory body. Its Board of Directors include among others representatives from the zone enterprises and Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The authority which is again responsible for the development of the zone area has made the part of CEPZ ready within a record time of one and a half years.

CSO: 4220

PETROLEUM MINISTERS DISCUSS PRICES, WORKERS' DEMANDS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 81 pp 1,8

[Text] Mr Akbar Hossain, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said in Dacca on Wednesday Government would have to bear a loss of Taka 85 crore in spite of the recent increase in the prices on petroleum products, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing the installation ceremony of the office-bearers of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Workers Union at its office Wednesday afternoon.

Presided over by Mr Nasimuddin Ahmed, Chairman Petroleum Corporation the function was also addressed by Mr Naimuddin Ahmed and Mr Murad Wats.

The Minister said despite the price increase of petroleum products by the OPEC countries the Government had not increased the prices for the benefit of the common people.

He urged the workers to help wipe out corruption to save the country from financial losses. He said the management could not function well if there was corruption in any organisation.

Regarding the demands of the workers, the Minister said that right to demand was an inalienable right of the workers in a democratic country. But you must behave so that others do not suffer for your activities, he warned them.

He asked them to utilise their democratic rights lawfully. Otherwise, he said the fruits of democracy might be at stake and fascism might get a scope to enter.

CSO: 4220

FACTS ON INVESTMENT, COOPERATION SIGNED WITH FRG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 81 p 1

[Text] Bonn, May 6:--Bangladesh and Federal Republic of Germany signed here today two separate agreements providing for increased investment and financial cooperation between the two countries, reports BSS.

The agreements were signed on the third day of President Ziaur Rahman's five-day state visit to West Germany.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq accompanying the President and West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher signed the agreements at the Grand Conference Hall of Federal Foreign Office here this afternoon.

The first agreement was on investment promotion protecting capital investments in the two countries and easing provision of West German Government credit guarantees.

The other agreement provided for 10 million marks (about Taka 7.80 crore) in low interest West German credits to promote industrial projects in Bangladesh.

West Germany provided Bangladesh 267 million marks (118 million dollars) last year in aid for family planning, agriculture and energy projects.

Foreign Ministry in Bonn said President Zia today paid tribute to the "great effectiveness" of development cooperation between the two countries in his meeting with Foreign Minister Mr Genscher.

Mr Genscher said his Government was interested in seeing the countries of southern Asia develop independently and without outside influence.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

RELIGION IN POLITICS--The Executive Council of Jamat-e-Islami at a meeting on Tuesday said that politics based on religion was permitted by the Constitution and that raising of any protest against such politics was opposed to the Constitution of the country. Presided over by Maulana Abbas Ali Khan, acting Amir of the Party, the meeting said in a resolution that the Jamaat considered the use of religion for political ends as an offence but at the same time it did not believe in politics without religion. The meeting in a resolution expressed its surprise over the contention of the Chief Executive of the country that nobody would be allowed to indulge in politics in the name of religion and said, it did not understand what he wanted to mean. The meeting said that the 1977 constitutional amendment by which "faith in Allah was affirmed by discarding secularism was endorsed by the people of the country through the referendum" said a press release. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 May 81 p 8]

CHITTAGONG EXPORT ZONE--The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced a project assistance of three lakh 90 thousand us dollars for bringing the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) into operation as early as possible, reports ENA. According to a UNDP Press release issued in Dacca on Wednesday the project will assist the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) to elaborate detailed action plans for the establishment and overall operation of the CEPZ. The project will also assist as well in planning and establishment of the necessary physical infrastructure. It provides for forty man-months of expert services in the field of management planning organisation marketing promotion drive training environmental control and civil engineering. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 81 p 8]

CZECH LEADER GREETED--President Ziaur Rahman has sent a message of greetings to Dr Gustav Husak, President of Czechoslovakia on its National Day says a PID handout. In his message the President hoped that the existing good relations between Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia would continue to grow in future to the mutual benefit of both the countries. Following is the text of the President's message: "On the occasion of the National Day of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Government and the people of Bangladesh join me to extend to Your Excellency the Government and the people of Czechoslovakia our warm greetings. I am confident that the existing good relations between our two countries will continue to grow in future to the mutual benefit of both the countries. I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and happiness and the people of Czechoslovakia peace, progress and prosperity." [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 May 81 p 1]

TEAM TO JUTE TALKS--A two-member Bangladesh delegation headed by Mr Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Jute left Dacca for Geneva on Friday night to attend the UNCTAD sponsored two-week conference of the Jute producing, exporting and consuming countries on formation of the Bangladesh proposed International Jute Organisation (IJO), reports ENA. The conference begins on May 11. Kazi Zahedur Rahman Joint Secretary, Ministry of Jute, is the other member of the delegation. Five more members will join the Bangladesh delegation in Geneva. They are the Bangladesh Ambassador in UN Mission, Geneva, Bangladesh Economic Ministers from Brussels, Rome and Geneva and the General Manager, BJMC office Brussels. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 May 81 p 12]

ISLAMIC DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OFFICIAL--Barisal, May 8--Mr Abdul Aziz Talukdar, Vice-Chairman, Islamic Democratic League, died at his Barisal residence on the night following May 1. He was instrumental to the establishment of a high school in his own village and renovation of the Shree Chaltanya Gobindra Mohan Highschool at Barisal. Mr Talukdar also headed a number of workers organisations of Barisal including the Rickshaw Drivers Union, Bidi Workers Union, Ghat Sramik Union etc. He was the Editor of weekly JUGBANI published from Barisal. Mr Talukdar was also a senior member of the Barisal Bar Association and was a member of its Executive Committee till his death. [Excerpts] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 May 81 p 5]

JDC CITY COMMITTEE--Mohammed Habibullah and Jamal Sharif Hiru were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Dacca Metropolitan Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal says a Press release. Others who were elected at different posts are: Vice-Presidents--Shahid Hassan Osman Gani Sirajul Islam Bhulu Mashhur Rahman Babul Mashjuddin Azad Choudhury; Joint Secretaries--Faisal Chisti Nurunnabi Nanna Assistant Secretaries--Nurul Islam Sekander Ali; Office Secretary--Sanwar Hossain, Organising Secretary--Tofael Ahmed Maya Press and Publication Secretary--Kazi Jafri Sattar, Information and Research Secretary--Fazlul Huq Palash; Publicity Secretary, Mr Nal Huq; Athletic Secretary--Yusuf Ali; Social welfare Secretary--Sirajuddin and Treasurer--Abdur [name illegible]. Besides 32 members of the Executive Council were [words illegible]. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 May 81 p 1]

LOAN FOR OIL--The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has provided a loan of 20 million US dollars for Bangladesh to facilitate import of crude oil from Saudi Arabia. The loan was sanctioned at a meeting of the Board of the Executive Directors of IDB held in Jeddah the headquarters of the bank, in the last week of April. The Board meeting was presided over by Mr Ahmad Mohammed Ali President of the Bank according to an IDB Press release issued in Dacca on Wednesday. During the meeting the Board also discussed aspects that concerned the evaluation of the bank activities through the past five years and approved loans and equity in the different projects in the member countries. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 81 p 1]

NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR--General Kenan Evren President of Turkey, has conveyed brotherly felicitations to President Ziaur Rahman and expressed hope that the relations existing between Bangladesh and Turkey would be further strengthened, reports BSS. Foreign Ministry sources in Dacca on Thursday said this was conveyed to Bangladesh Ambassador Mr C. M. Murshed when he presented his credentials to the Turkish President recently. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 81 p 1]

PRESS UNION OFFICERS--Mr Golam Sattar and Mr Mohammad Iffbal were elected President and General Secretary respectively of DAINIK BANGLA Press Karmachari Union for the year 1981-82 at the election held on Monday according to a Press release. The other office bearers elected were Messers Chand Mia Nur Nabi Choudhury and Saleh Mohammad--Vice-President Mohammad Rafiqul Alam--Joint Secretary Hamidul Huq Organising Secretary Abdur Rahman Bhuiya--Treasurer and Naser Ahmed, Nur Hossain Nowsher Alim Hare Krishna Kuli Tofazzal Hossain Sheikh Ahmed and Sayeduzzaman--members. The election was conducted by Mr M A Karim President of Press Bramik Federation. He was assisted by Mr Shuvo Rahman and Kamruzzaman Khan. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 May 81 p 8]

ELECTION DEMAND REPORTED--Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Chairman of the United People's Party (UPP) on Saturday demanded elections to the Parliament for establishing a parliamentary system of government in the country reports BSS. Addressing a Press conference at his party office, Kazi Zafar Ahmed demanded resignation of the present government and formation of an interim government headed by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court to supervise the elections. He said that if the government failed to meet these demands his party would launch a mass movement to dislodge the government. UPP has already called for Mass Struggle Day on May 22 as part of the programme of the movement, he pointed out. [Text] [Dacca

AMBASSADOR TO BHUTAN--The Government of Bangladesh has decided to appoint Mr. Mominuddin Ahmed at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bhutan, an official announcement said in Dacca reports BSS. Born on January 7, 1929 Mr. Mominuddin Ahmed obtained B.A. degree in 1949, Master's degree in Political Science in 1953 from Dacca University and LL.B. in 1954. Mr. Mominuddin Ahmed was elected Member of the then East Pakistan Assembly in 1970, Member of the Bangladesh Parliament in 1973 and was State Minister in August 1975 in-charge of the Ministry of Power Flood Control and Water Resources. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 May 81 p 5]

SAILORS TO BNP--Fifteen thousand workers of Bangladesh Seafarers Union have decided to join Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by President Ziaur Rahman, a Press release of union signed by its chairman Mr Md Shahjahan said in Dacca on Saturday, reports BSS. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 May 81 p 1]

RUBBER DEVELOPMENT PLANS--Chittagong, May 24:--Minister for Agriculture and Forests Mr Nurul Islam has said that about Taka 51 crore would be allotted during the Second Five Year Plan for the development and expansion of rubber plantation in the country. Addressing a meeting of the workers of Bangladesh Rubber Plantation Project at Dantmara, about 50 miles from here yesterday he said 25.00 acres of land would also be brought under rubber cultivation in place of the present 13000 acres. [as published] A separate rubber board will also be set up soon he said. The Minister said the present government was determined to increase production in the fields and factories reduce dependence on imports and to increase exports. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 81 p 12]

RICE FROM THAILAND--Bangkok, May 14--Bangladesh has bought 50,000 tons of par-boiled rice worth more than 19 million US dollars from Thailand, trade sources said today, reports REUTER. The rice to be delivered in June or July was bought by the Bangladesh Government through an international tender. Sinchai Commodities won the bid with an offering price of 396.84 US dollars per ton FOB basis, the sources said. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 15 May 81 p 12]

SHISHU SANGSTHA EXECUTIVE--The Government has constituted a 51-member national executive committee for Jatiya Shishu Sangstha with Mrs Masuda Hussain as chairman, says an official handout on Friday, reports ENA. The committee includes 5 Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, 5 Secretaries, 5 Joint Secretaries, 21 Organising Secretaries and 13 members. The committee will be controlled by the Ministry of Women Affairs. Mrs Sufia Islam was made General Secretary of the committee. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 May 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220

INDONESIA TO DEVELOP MODERN ARMED FORCES

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] "It is true that we are going to build up a modern and professional army capable of carrying out its fundamental tasks and rising to the occasion promptly and effectively. At the same time, we will maintain the Weltanschauung of the TNI/ABRI (armed forces of the Republic of Indonesia) as a national army and freedom fighters who are self-reliant, unyielding and willing to sacrifice for freedom."

Army General M. Jusuf, minister of defense and concurrently commander-in-chief of the armed forces, made the remark while explaining his basic policy at the conclusion of a staff meeting.

The ABRI, he said, should always be united with the people, and must not isolate themselves from the people and their social surroundings. "The army's 'Down to the Countryside' operation not only serves as a means to strengthen the unity with the people but also to activate the development of rural areas to pave the way for the creation of a People's Defense and Security. By going deep into the countryside, we want our soldiers to collect information and data which can be utilized in due course to comprehend the problems and aspirations of the rural inhabitants," General Jusuf said.

The defense minister stressed that Indonesia's national development can only be attained under two essential conditions: dynamic national stability and firm national leadership.

"In this context, we should assess how extremely important it is to smoothly execute the 1982 general elections and we should also realize our responsibility to do so. Let us not give any adverse opportunities which would disrupt national unity and reconstruction," said General Jusuf in a session held in Ambon yesterday.

The minister reiterated the matter of regrouping and formation of a combat unit which was started in 1979-80 with 60 battalions and which has since been increased to 100 battalions in strength for 1980-81. "During the current third period of 1981-82, we will continue with the program by improving the equipment and weaponry, as well as the capabilities."

General Jusuf continued that due to limited budget, the army will make good use of the available fund in 1981-82 to replenish its basic equipment, add personnel,

intensify the capability of its territorial apparatus, build bases and other support facilities.

In the field of basic equipment, we still need troop transport planes, combat airplanes, helicopters, transport ships and landing crafts, as well as light weapons and ammunition to fill the standard needs of our combat battalions. Moreover, to support our army operations, we still need field artilleries, radars, communications equipment, motor vehicles and armored cars. Furthermore, we still need equipment to support our police for prompt and better service to the people. For this we have bought the equipment, and some have arrived, while the rest will be made available in 1981-82, to be distributed to the police units according to plan. We also need more personnel, particularly enlisted men to fulfill the basic needs of combat battalions.

In the field of bases and support facilities, we still need to build barracks and houses in order to fulfill the requirements of combat, territorial and staff units. We also need bases and facilities for ships and airplanes, while for the army we need to build logistic bases, exercise and instruction centers including instruction tools, and territorial needs.

"In making good use of the available fund for defense and security, we must always pay attention to maintenance of all our equipment in hand, especially the basic equipment which are becoming more expensive. We must instill in the minds of all soldiers that maintenance plays an important role in guaranteeing the combat readiness of our armed forces. The limited amount of our weaponry must be balanced by our high maintenance ability," said the four-star general.

The minister also emphasized the necessity for all units to hold military exercises to maintain and intensify the preparedness of personnel and materiel, as well as to safeguard the operational capability of all units, big or small. This means that we should pay attention to the improvement of capabilities of combat reserve units and administrative supports, so we can utilize our preparedness to the utmost.

"All of us know that it is no longer possible to have appropriate exercise venues on Java Island. It is practically difficult to carry out infantry maneuvers of battalion strength and above. Likewise, it is not possible to conduct cavalry maneuvers, artillery gunfire exercises on land, toward the sea or in the air. At the same time, the population on Java need more and more housing and acreage for farming as time passes by.

"Therefore, in line with the direction of the 'General Outline of National Policies' to gradually move strategic bases out of Java Island, I have asked the staffs of the Department of Defense and Security and the Armed Forces to pay attention in 1981-82 to the realization of the armed forces' development center for training and exercises outside of Java."

The minister stressed also the need of a program to straighten up and improve the territorial apparatuses during the period of 1981-82. It is necessary to put things in order by meticulous selection and intensified training and exercises, so that each territorial apparatus truly possesses knowledgeable and capable

personnel to carry out its duties. Special attention should be paid to sensitive areas, but without neglecting other areas.

The minister made mention of the importance of efforts to improve welfare in order to recruit worthy soldiers. What he meant was spiritual and material welfare not only for the soldier concerned, but also for his family members, involving the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, health and education.

9300

CSO: 4213/68

PERTAMINA SIGNS FOUR PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACTS

Jakarta WARTA PERTAMINA No 9, Feb 81 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] "The signing of these contracts represents a continuation of our 1980 activities. By the end of 1980, we have signed 44 production sharing contracts, two technical assistance contracts and 10 joint operating agreements. All these agreements will put to work 59 operation areas in Indonesia. Of the total, 17 contractors have reached production stage," said Minister of Mines and Energy Subroto at the signing ceremony of production sharing contracts between Pertamina and four foreign contractors at the Department of Mines and Energy 12 February, 1981.

These contracts will involve capital investment totalling \$134.2 million within a period of 2 to 6 years at the first instance and covering operation areas measuring 42,485 square kilometers.

The four production sharing contracts were signed between Pertamina on the one hand and the following companies: Husky Oil International, Ltd, involving Banggai Block offshore operation area measuring 17,785 sq km situated at eastern Sulawesi; Mobil Pase, Inc, involving Pase region in Aceh measuring 2,305 sq km; Chevron Singkarak, Inc/Texaco Singkarak, Inc, involving Singkarak operation area in West Sumatra measuring 7,265 sq km; while the fourth contract represents a consortium among Keer McGee of Indonesia, Inc, Quintana Indonesia, Ltd, Samedan Oil of Indonesia, Inc and Wainoco International, Inc. This consortium will put to work the Bawean offshore area in East Java covering an area of 15,130 sq km.

The contracts stipulated that all contractors are duty-bound to fulfill several basic requirements, to wit:

--All expenses for exploration, investment and production shall be covered by the contractors.

--Contractors shall get a reimbursement for all operational costs, and the production sharing between Indonesia and the contractors shall have the ratio of 85:15 for oil and 70:30 for gas.

--Contractors are obliged to pay corporation tax and capital gains tax (interest, dividend and royalty) directly to the government.

--With regard to oil business, PERTAMINA has the option to sell for the contractors the portion of the oil due them, so that the oil sold or received by PERTAMINA shall not be less than 50 percent of the entire production.

--If they strike oil, contractors shall make available 10 percent of their interest for the participation of an Indonesian enterprise which will be designated by PERTAMINA.

--Contractors are prepared to surrender 28.5 percent of their production share to be processed in Indonesia and they are to build an oil refinery or a petrochemical project in Indonesia in the absence of an available processing facility, should their production share exceed 100,000 or 175,000 barrels per day.

--Contractors are obliged to make available oil for domestic BBN on proportional basis at the rate of \$0.20 [sic] per barrel after the fifth year of production.

--The abovementioned operational work area shall be returned in stages so the remnants shall not exceed 20 percent or 25 percent of the original area by the end of the sixth year.

In the meantime, the new contractors are also obliged to fulfill the following work commitments:

1) HUSKY OIL INTERNATIONAL LTD shall put up exploration funds for 6 years totalling not less than \$15 million, with an addition of \$1 million in the second contracted year if both PERTAMINA and the contractor agree that such extra expenditure is deemed necessary for the continuation of the seismic exploration program. The contractor shall pay \$1 million for information bonus. When production has reached 25,000 barrels per day, the contractor shall pay production bonus amounting to \$1 million; when it has reached 50,000 barrels per day, the said bonus shall be \$2 million; at 100,000 barrels per day, \$5 million; at 200,000 barrels per day, \$5 million; and at 300,000 barrels per day, \$5 million.

2) MOBIL PASE, INC shall put up exploration funds for 2 years totalling not less than \$13.2 million. The contractor shall pay \$5,250,000 for information bonus. When production has reached 50,000 barrels per day, the contractor shall pay production bonus amounting to \$3 million, to be increased to \$6 million when production reaches 100,000 barrels per day.

3) CHEVRON SINGKARAK, INC/TEXACO SINGKARAK shall put up exploration funds for 6 years totalling not less than \$60.6 million. After commercial production, the contractor shall pay \$3 million for information bonus; \$5 million as production reaches 25,000 barrels per day; \$10 million as it reaches 50,000 barrels per day; and \$20 million as it reaches 100,000 barrels per day.

4) KEER MCGEE CS shall put up exploration funds for 6 years totalling not less than \$40 million. Information bonus to be paid by the contractor shall be \$1.5 million. The contractor must pay \$5 million per year for the profit it makes, after taxes. It must pay \$2.5 million when production reaches 25,000 barrels per day, \$5 million when it reaches 50,000 barrels per day, \$5 million when it reaches 75,000 barrels per day and \$14 million when production reaches 100,000 barrels per day.

9300

CSO: 4213/68

FORMATION OF ASIAN NEWS NETWORK SUGGESTED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 4 Apr 81 p 12

[Excerpts] OANA (Organization of Asian News Agencies) should form the nucleus for ANN (Asian News Network) as a promise that ANN can, and indeed will, operate effectively in practice, said Minister of Information Ali Murtopo when receiving a "monitoring group" delegation from UNESCO in Jakarta Friday.

The "monitoring group" was charged with the preparation of a report and a series of suggestions to be presented before an OANA general meeting scheduled for late August in Kuala Lumpur.

It was suggested that the forthcoming OANA general meeting will not bear the name of OANA with its current membership of 13 Asian news agencies, because it will be attended by 25 member countries, including PRC, Japan, Vietnam, Mongolia, Soviet Russia, Laos and Turkey.

Minister Murtopo said that previously, at an ASIOCOM [sic] conference organized by UNESCO in 1979, he had proposed in his capacity as leader of the Indonesian delegation to turn OANA into the nucleus for an Asian News Network (ANN).

Three reasons were given for the proposal. Firstly, OANA had existed since 1961, so it already had a history of 18 years by the time the ASIOCOM conference was held. Secondly, OANA was formed at the initiative of UNESCO, and therefore represented a natural way for adjusting the aspirations of UNESCO members within the Asian community to create a similar news network. Thirdly, since its formation, OANA has invariably adhered to its principle of accepting as member any news agency in an Asian country which is a member of UNESCO and which applies for membership.

When this proposal was brought forward before the ASIOCOM conferece, two differing views were on hand. Although all present agreed to the formation of ANN, several countries, such as Mongolia, Soviet Russia and Vietnam, objected to the proposal that OANA be transformed into the nucleus for ANN. Eventually, it was resolved that UNESCO would consider the proposal sponsored by Indonesia and other ASEAN countries, that is, making OANA as the nucleus for ANN.

In December, 1980, UNESCO met again in New Delhi to discuss the question of the Asian News Network. Although it met with stiff opposition from several UNESCO member nations, the issue of making OANA as the nucleus for ANN was ultimately passed and adopted by the conference, concluded Minister of Information Ali Murtopo.

9300

CSO: 4213/68

NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT POLICY

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] Ir Suhartoyo, chairman of BKPM [Capital Investment Coordination Agency = CICA], has issued a new policy concerning foreign capital investment. It stipulates that in developing a project, the first to be mobilized is all domestic potentials involving technology, management and capitalization; only when these domestic potentials are found inadequate will the government rely on foreign countries to make up for the deficiencies. In this way, foreign capital investment will truly represent a supplement to cover domestic shortcomings.

The BKPM chairman made this remark to a KOMPAS reporter Saturday, by way of clarification to his address delivered before the second plenary session of HIPMI [Association of Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs] conference in Solo last March.

"The policy to muster all domestic potentials before relying on foreign help is because our own capability has greatly improved during the past 15 years of development," Ir Suhartoyo said.

In developing a certain project, we will first of all take stock of our domestic capability so we can tackle the job as best we can. The bigger the project, the greater the necessity to mobilize the domestic potentials from government or private sectors.

Regarding capitalization, besides government sources, we must also look for the capital from non-banking financial institutions and even by utilizing insurance funds. These insurance funds, according to the BKPM chairman, total a huge amount, but they have merely been deposited without being utilized directly for development purposes.

Each project to be developed will be publicly announced for the purpose of obtaining the needed capital, and also to attract private entrepreneurs for the combined accumulation of the fund for the project. Cooperatives will also be given a chance to participate, said Suhartoyo.

The BKPM is convinced that private funds in Indonesia come up to a great amount in entirety but remain invisible because they are spread out and not amassed.

After we have determined our own capabilities, we will need outside help for our deficiencies.

This means that we will not need foreign help in its entirety, perhaps only concerning technology or management or capital, whichever we are short of. Only in an exceptional case, such as developing a gigantic project, shall we entirely rely on foreign countries, but such cases are rare. "Foreign capital will thus merely serve as a supplement to make up for our lack," said the BKPM chairman.

Foreign investors will also be happy with the new system, because they will know for certain what aspects of a project are needed by the Indonesian side.

Projects will be divided into six types of priority, namely, whether they belong to top priority, high priority, ordinary priority, no priority, a project which does not require capital investment facilities and, lastly, a "closed" project.

BKPM will handle four of these six priorities, that is, from top priority to no priority, while projects requiring no capital investment facilities (from BKPM) will be tackled by a department or regional authorities. Projects without facilities also include those that need no license, but only registration.

As to closed projects, this means that they are closed at BKPM, the departments and regional authorities without exception. In due course, such projects will not be allowed throughout Indonesia.

Later on, the implementation of various projects will be coordinated with one another, especially those with top priority. Until now, 31 projects with high priority have been registered, involving cement, sugar, fertilizer, steel and others.

It is hoped that through this coordination system, each established project will not meet with any obstacle.

The system of one-stop service at the BKPM will be intensified in earnest. A capital investor need no longer deal with other government agencies, as BKPM is capable of handling the case by itself. In fact, BKPM can, in the name of the minister of internal affairs, issue a land utilization license for agriculture. This is because agro-business will become a province of BKPM's tasks. A Land Utilization License in Indonesia runs for a relatively short period of 30 to 60 years, whereas in other countries such a license may last 99 years.

9300

CSO: 4213/68

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SHIFTED TO OUTLYING ISLANDS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] By the year 2000 or about 20 years hence, the average population density in Java will reach 1,000 persons per square kilometer. At such a high density of population, Java will be faced with the major problem of water shortage or limited available water supply.

Thus said Prof Dr Gunawan Satari, first chairman of the Association of Indonesian Agronomical Experts (PERAGI).

Prof Gunawan Satari told reporters that to forestall such a critical happening, the current Javacentric agricultural activities must gradually be shifted to the wide open spaces outside Java where the density of population is still low, despite the minimum-level fertility of the land over there. To make the outcome of agricultural activities worthwhile for farmers, he added, the relatively infertile land must be properly processed and given a high dosage of fertilizer.

Prof Gunawan Satari elaborated: "At present, the recommended fertilizing of land or plantation on outlying islands is the same dosage as that on Java where the land is far more fertile. This is a wrong measure, resulting in the acceleration of barrenness of agricultural land outside Java."

He said that the system of intensive land utilization can be carried out only in flat terrains on Java; on the other hand, regions with uneven topography generally known as "river flow areas" should be reforested, or certain portions thereof should be constantly utilized to plant produce of high economic value, especially horticulture.

This type of plant has a double function, that is, producing fruits and vegetables and conserving water and land. The disaster of water shortage on Java can thus be overcome or averted.

Asked about the point in time of Indonesia's food self-sufficiency, Prof Gunawan Satari said: "To answer that, we must first of all talk about food production, marketing and supply, and only then can we move on to discuss the problem of consumption."

At present, Indonesia is capable of increasing food production by only 3.8 percent per year on the average, while its population growth has averaged 2.34 percent per

year. This is by no means a rational balance, for rice consumption has been increasing steeply, reaching an average of 127 kilograms per capita/year.

To counterbalance the increasing population and food consumption, according to Prof Gunawan Satari, Indonesia's rice production should be increased to 4.5 percent per year at the minimum. As it turns out, this figure of increase in rice production remains on paper only.

Therefore, we must be able to carry out diversification in foodstuff. This represents a national problem which must be solved by the entire people. If we depend only on rice as our daily staple, we are bound to be faced with a catastrophe one day.

9300

CSO: 4213/68

BRIEFS

SRV-AIDED ANIMAL FEED PLANT--Phnom Penh, 1 Jun (SPK)--Vietnamese technicians have completed the installation of a combined animal feed making machine capable of producing about 2,000 tons of feed annually. This machine is a gift from the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture to its Kampuchean counterpart. Vietnamese and Kampuchean technicians have completed the installation and testing of this grinder-mixer at the animal feed plant in Battambang Province in honor of the Fourth KPRP Congress. The machine will be put into commission soon to meet the demands for animal feed of state enterprises in Battambang, Pursat and Siem Reap provinces. [Text] [BK090235 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1443 GMT 1 Jun 81]

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REVIEWED--Phnom Penh, 10 Jun (SPK)--A meeting was held in Phnom Penh in early June to review last year's achievements in agricultural production. The meeting studied strengths and weaknesses as well as experiences in last year's agricultural production and noted that the cultivated area in 1980 was double that of 1979. The meeting reviewed preparations made since the beginning of the rainy season for the current rice crop, including seeds, draft animals, water conservancy work, fertilizer and insecticide. It highly appreciated the measures taken by the Fourth KPRP Congress to stress the importance and necessity of agricultural production. Heng Samrin, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the KNUFNS and KPRC, who honored the meeting with his presence, highly appreciated the revolutionary gains recorded during the past few years, especially in agricultural production. He called on peasants to step up production and to develop both the family-oriented and collective economies. [Text] [BK100917 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT 10 Jun 81]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASES--Phnom Penh, 23 May (SPK)--Workers at Mechanical Engineering Factory No 1 are determined to produce 35,000 hoes and thousands of bicycle wheel hubs to welcome the Fourth Congress of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP]. In 1980, the factory turned out 18,000 hoes, more than 600 palm sugar refining pots, nearly 5,100 moldboards, 3,500 plowshares, 28 mechanical saws, 20 10-cubic meter barrels and thousands of other articles. Workers at the Phnom Penh Glass Works resolve to produce 200,000 drinking glasses, 100,000 lamps and 200,000 lamp glasses in 1981 to greet the Fourth KPRP Congress. In 1980, they turned out 43,000 drinking glasses, 6,700 plates, 49,000 lamps and 106,000 kerosene lamp glasses. [BK271053 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1510 GMT 23 May 81]

POLITICAL FREEDOM WITHOUT DELAY CALLED FOR

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 30 Mar 81 p 5

[Editorial: "There Should Be No Further Delay in Granting Freedom for Political Activities"]

[Text] The 1981 Provisional Constitution Order promulgated by General Zia does not, per se, need any comment because, even in constitutional terms, this order can be called only a necessary evil. The order specifies that when the president grants political freedom, only those political parties which had registered with the Election Commission by September 30, 1979 will be free to take part in politics. Those parties which did not register by that time will be dissolved and their assets and funds will be confiscated. In future, no political party will be allowed to organize without the prior permission of the Chief, Election Commission. When the question of the registration of political parties was being debated, we expressed the view that in an ideological country, no person, party or organization should be permitted to engage in activities which are not in conformity with the country's ideology. We want to state again that no party which does not believe in a Pakistan based on the secure and solid foundation of Islam should be allowed to operate in this country. On the other hand, all restrictions placed on parties which believe in the founding principles of the country and which have a spotless reputation of loyalty should be lifted.

The events of the last few days have created a feeling on every level that all patriotic elements, parties and organizations should join together in an effort to deal with the dangers posed by the enemies of the country within and abroad. Time has proved that only subversive elements have benefited from the restrictions imposed on political parties. The subversive elements have organized themselves while underground, and now they are bent upon creating disturbance secretly as well as openly. In a normal political environment, such forces die a natural death. In our opinion there should be no further delay in granting permission for political activities to those parties which have already registered themselves.

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CSO: 4203/61

IMPLICATIONS OF HIJACKING ON RELATIONS WITH LIBYA, PLO VIEWED

Lahore GHATAN in Urdu 30 Mar 81 p 5

[Editorial: Need for Prudence and Precaution]

[Text] After the hijacking of the PIA plane on March 2, certain things which were said and heard quietly until now have, or have been made to, come out in the open. One of them is the fact that the hijackers and some of their fellow passengers received training in the camps of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Another fact is that the elements engaged in antiPakistan activities have the backing of Libya. Still another fact is that Syria has refused to hand over the hijackers. If all these facts are true, the impressions formed by the Pakistani people about the PLO, Libya and Syria will hardly need an explanation. As far as the PLO and Libya are concerned, the Western media has for some time been active in turning the world opinion against them. If the Pakistani public and the Government of Pakistan were also to form some kind of wrong opinion about them, it will only strengthen the objectives of the Jews and the powers behind them. For this reason, the first thing we need to ascertain is how true are the reports put out by the Western media about Libya and the PLO. On the face of it, it does not seem probable to us that the PLO would want to antagonize the Pakistani people because of the actions of a few misguided Pakistanis. After all, how are the PLO and Libya going to benefit from any incidents which are not in the best interests of Pakistan? On the contrary, a strong Pakistan can be a source of support and strength for them also. Even if it is established that Libya and the PLO have actually helped antiPakistan elements or they are doing so now, we should not adopt an attitude of seeking revenge. Rather, we should allow for the possibilities that antiPakistan elements or those on their back have somehow succeeded in giving wrong impressions about us to the PLO and Libya, or that Pakistani embassies and missions abroad are lax about doing their job. Anyway, should there be reason to believe that antiPakistan elements were given help, the proper course of action for us would be to talk to responsible persons in authority both in Libya and the PLO.

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COUNTRY'S RAILROADS TERMED KGB 'PLAYGROUND'

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 30 Mar 81 pp 25-26, 42

[Article: "Plans to Hand Over Railways to Russia"; /Alarming Disclosures by An Insider; Who is Who in Pakistan's Largest Department/ -- passage enclosed in slant-lines printed in boldface]

[Text] These days when one thinks of the railways in Pakistan, certain election posters and signs come to mind which are seen in railway compartments all over. One of these is the Red Star, official and national insignia of the Soviet Union. The railways are the lifeline of Pakistan, but as crucial as this department is militarily and economically, it is also suffering from poor administration and financial instability, is a center of corruption and has become an arena for all kinds of scandals, national as well as foreign. In fact it would not be wrong to say that the KGB, intelligence agency of Soviet Russia, has turned Pakistan railways into its playground. This article is being written with the purpose of disclosing some of the terrible facts about the railways, the intention being to open the eyes of all patriotic Pakistanis before it is too late. In order to put things in the proper perspective, let us start at the beginning. When Pakistan attained its freedom, there was fighting, killing and destruction. One Pakistani journalist painted the picture of those days in the following words:

"All around us there was a dance of flames, human sacrifice, bloodshed, crying and wailing. All hopes were shattered, all paths closed. Every night would bring with it raging fires, bomb explosions, gunfire and cries of help, and each day would dawn on piles of corpses, gashing wounds and terror-stricken people. Grief-ridden masses would gather in front of the police stations; there would be crowds of victims and victimizers. From time to time, army trucks would patrol, giving people some consolation, but no one had any confidence in anyone or anything anymore."

In this state of affairs, Radio Pakistan, on orders from Quaide-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of the new-born country, announced that beginning September 1, Pakistan's North-Western Railway will run special trains to bring Moslems, army-men as well as civilizns, into Pakistan. The announcement advised all those who were headed for Pakistan to gather near the railway lines running into the country.

The Hindus and socialists had not as yet accepted the reality of the formation of Pakistan. The Railway Workers Union, a trade union supported by the socialists, was therefore instructed to combat Quaide-Azam Jinnah's order by ordering the railway workers to go on strike before the special trains leave Lahore. Mirza Ibrahim, the leader of the Workers Union, immediately issued a workstop order and announced total strike. After hearing about the special trains on the radio, Moslems from all over started gathering around the lines on September 1, and began to wait for the trains which would take them safely into Pakistan. Little did they know that red snakes coiling around those lines had bitten the hands that were to run the trains. The crowds of moslems waiting in misery became an easy target for Hindu and Sikh gangs, who rained gunfire on them, murdered their youth, tortured their old, raped their women and made balls out of their children on the points of spears. The whole bloody day of September 1 passed. Caravans of people by the railway lines went through hell, but the special trains did not come. Wearied and beaten, people waited the second and the third day also, but there were no trains. Gurkha soldiers arrived instead, and their arrival terrified the people even more. Then it was known that Quaide Azam Jinnah had sent Liaqat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first prime minister, to Lahore to talk to the railway workers and that the strike would soon be over. After Liaqat Ali Khan's historic speech at the Lahore railway station, the strike finally ended. But even then Mirza Ibrahim, with 500 of his followers, paid no attention to the country's leaders and continued on with the strike. At that time everyone thought that this man, who was responsible for the death of thousands of moslems and the rape of thousands of moslem women, would be tried in court. But the newly-formed government of the young country did not want to risk antagonizing a super power at the very outset. The incident, therefore, was ignored.

As time passed, people forgot the painful memories. Mirza regained his status of leadership among the workers and once again the railways became the exploiting ground. Mirza Ibrahim's character remained a mystery for the workers and no one tried to uncover the real truth about him.

I gained the confidence of an old comrade of Mirza and asked him how long he had known Mirza Ibrahim. In answer to my question, he related these incidents to me: "In 1941 I became acquainted with a terrorist group. Its members were almost all Hindus and Sikhs. They told me that Moslems usually avoided them and that the group was in dire need of young people like me. The partition of India was becoming more and more certain, and they said that in the new country Pakistan, it will not be Jinnah who will govern, it will be the younger generation moslems like Mirza Ibrahim (whom I did not know then) and me, and the country will be governed as they want it governed. In the beginning, this whole talk seemed silly to me, but as time went on and my contacts within the organization grew, I came to realize that the terrorist group had very long arms indeed. A world power, with all its financial, political and other resources, was behind it. Now I took their claims seriously. Gradually they introduced me to several moslem comrades. Mirza Ibrahim was one of them. I got to know him well and he helped me get a job with the railways. Pakistan came into being; there were marches, meetings, strikes and also the Rawalpindi case. I waited and waited, but did not get any closer to power or authority of any sort. Rather, I was disgraced. Now I am considered a hardened Marxist and the government keeps files on me. Mirza says over and over that one day the workers will put brooms in the hands of officers and capitalists and will take over their seats of power and palaces. I am sick of hearing such things from his lips." I asked

this man: "If you are so disillusioned with Mirza and know that his dreams have bitten the dust, why don't you separate from him and go your own way?" He replied: "In the first place, I am not so sure Mirza's dreams have been shattered. The socialists today have the best possible environment in which to work for their goals. In the old days, they had to obtain their materials from afar, today all materials are provided right across the border. In communication, transportation and every other way, Russian patronage has now become much more readily available. On the political front also, the socialists now have the backing of a party inside the country which has its roots among the people. Hundreds of socialists are getting training in Afghanistan; their sole aim is to take control of the railways, PIA and the universities and through these they want to control all of Pakistan. It is true that I no longer agree with their antinational policies, but I cannot separate myself from this faction because two of my sons are studying in Moscow on scholarships and one son is working in the Karachi Steel Mill. Our sons are the support and hope of our small family. You perhaps are not aware of the practices of the KGB. If someone enters their network, gets familiar with it and then wants to quit, the KGB, as a matter of basic principle, eliminates him along with his ideological differences. Until now I regarded Mirza to be a harmless person, someone with merely a socialist bent of mind, But now I know there is more to it. He acknowledges his socialist leanings in private, but what is not known is that Mirza Ibrahim also works for the KGB. His railway union follows certain carefully thought-out plans. It is possible that some high, responsible railway officials are also a part of the union strategy. I say this because not too long ago Mirza asked the railways for a free train compartment to tour the country. This compartment was used by Mirza and his workers first for storing and later distributing antigovernment pamphlets and other materials in cities and villages all over the country. In Karachi, the secretary of the union, Mr Iftikhar, was arrested for distributing the pamphlets. He was later released on bail. This incident took place when Mr Gulzar was chairman of the Railway Board. Complaints were lodged with him regarding this unauthorized facility, i.e., the compartment, provided for Mirza's use, but nothing was done about it. When the present chairman took over, Mirza asked for, and got, four railway compartments for bringing in visitors from all parts of the country for a 3-day workers' conference in Karachi. Two weeks before the conference, the chairman of the Railway Board was informed in writing that Mirza was going to take undue advantage of the facility, that his workers will engage in sloganeering against the administration, that propaganda pamphlets will be distributed at the railway stations, and that communist workers will travel in the bogies provided by the railway. A copy of this written notice was also sent to the National Industrial Commission. Further, the chairman of the Railway Board was also told that a prominent leader of a banned political party was expected to participate in that conference. The purpose of all this was to persuade the railway to take back its decision and not provide the train compartments for Mirza's use. But the decision was not taken back and, just as our reports had indicated, there were antigovernment demonstrations at the railway stations, slogans were shouted, pamphlets were distributed and Begum Nusrat Bhutto, chairperson of the banned People's Party, did take part in the conference. Even the BBC carried reports on all these activities. Doesn't this clearly prove that his railway officials are also cooperating in the dirty schemes of Mirza?"

Trade Union or Terrorist Group?

As is well known, communists do not form trade unions for the objectives which can be achieved legally. Mirza also did not organize his union for any obvious purpose,

nor did his union go into the rigmarole of presenting demands and signing agreements every 2 years or so. Instead, what Mirza did was to get his own men, about 1000 of them, jobs in the railway. Most of them are employed in the railway workshops. They get paid by the department, but the work they do serves Mirza's purpose. Many of these men run gambling posts in Moghulpura. Some of them have a police record and are professional burglars and thieves. Mirza patronizes them for odd, sordid jobs when he needs them done. With his help, they obtain grants from the railway for spurious projects and get loans from the credit unions. In addition, they steal goods and extract a 'Robin Hood' type tax from railway employees. The funny thing is that Mirza's men extract this tax not only from the general employees but also from high officials. Nothing at all goes on in the workshops without their knowledge and permission. During the Ayub Khan administration, some workers in Moghulpura planned a meeting at the workshop gate to air their grievances. But Mirza, who regards the Moghulpura workshop his estate, came to the meeting site and refused to allow the meeting to take place. One of the workers, a wrestler named Ismail, protested Mirza's action and said that each person had a right to express his opinion. At this Mirza's rage flared up and he ordered his supporters to beat the man up, assuring them that he will be fully responsible for their action. Ismail was showered with stones, sticks and iron pieces and was beaten to death on the spot. Why look even that far back? Just last year, the president and secretary of Prem, a union rival to Mirza's, made plans to hold a meeting at the workshop gate. The workshift was about to end and some of the Prem officeholders were busy making preparations for the meeting when they were suddenly attacked by about 50 of Mirza's tough men. They beat up Mr Guldara, convener of the workshop and Mr Arshad Chowdhary, general secretary of Prem so severely that they left these two for dead. The railway administration and the police see these beatings and bloodshed and reports are written, but no one seems to be bothered by these things. This makes us suspect that such incidents take place with the tacit approval of both the railway administration and the police. There is no doubt that people in the administration who recruit ruffians and gangsters and keep them on the railway payroll without any specific duties are doing so in cooperation with Mirza's union. A communist terrorist group has thus fostered itself in the railways. This group is a threat not only to that department but also to the security of the country. It is common knowledge that those belonging to this group cross Pakistan's borders into other countries, smuggle ammunition, deliver messages to the other side and bring orders and instructions from there. They also get training in other countries. In view of the fact that Nusrat Bhutto, Miraj Mohammad Khan, Fatehyab Ali and Kaniz Fatima, all took part in the workers' conference held in Karachi on February 22, '81, no further proof is needed of the connection between Mirza's Railway Workers Union and the banned Pakistan People's Party. What is all this? What is going on? Who among the railway personnel cooperate with Mirza's union and want to hand over the railway network of Pakistan to Russia? On the one hand, Mirza's union gets free train compartments, travel benefits and a free hand at anarchy; on the other hand, rival unions are not allowed to engage in lawful activities and are harassed. Isn't the government aware of all this?

Where Does the Money Come from?

There was a recent meeting of the executive committee of the Railway Workers Union at the Railway Institute in Rawalpindi. In this meeting, officeholders from all the divisions spoke and reviewed the Union's position. It was pointed out that in most divisions, the rival union, Prem, was stronger. Railway Workers Union, it was felt, was weaker because of a lack of resources. At this Mirza told the executive committee members not to panic and gave them assurances. He informed them that he had ear-

marked 700,000 rupees in the budget for the upcoming union referendum. Then, (referring to some obvious sources), he said: "The bastards who gave the mullahs in Islamabad 5 million rupees for creating disturbances, won't they give us even 700,000?" On another occasion, Mirza was overheard suggesting to Mr Raza, secretary of the Karachi division of the Railway Workers Union, to keep good contact with Mrs Gulzar Begum of the Karachi Steel Mill because, according to Mirza, she would bear all expenses for the publicity work of the Union. He told Mr Raza to pick up all posters and other publicity material from Mrs Gulzar Begum and send them to Lahore. At this someone interrupted and said that other divisions should also bear part of the burden of expenses because it would not be possible for the Karachi division alone to provide everything. Mirza replied: "You don't have to worry about these things. I have already talked to Gulzar Begum. Even if the expenses amount to millions, she will take care of them." It is very obvious that no workers' union can afford to spend so generously on its own. The Government of Pakistan should look into Mrs Gulzar Begum's relations with the Russians working in the Karachi Steel Mill. It should be noted that a journal has published a report about the Russians working in Egypt, Somalia and other countries. The report said that if all the KGB personnel working in Russian embassies as staff and as the so called 'technical personnel' were removed from their posts, it is not possible even to imagine how small the Russian embassies and consulates would become; in many countries they will not have a single staff member left.

International Connections

The Railway Workers Union controlled by Mirza is affiliated with All Pakistan Trade Union Federation at the national level and the World Federation of Trade Unions at the international level. WFTU was formed in 1945 in Paris and it came into being as a result of the efforts of the British Trade Union Congress. WFTU had to be relocated from Paris in Vienna and again, in 1956, in Prague. The reason for these relocations was that the governments of both countries, France and Austria, objected to the intelligence gathering carried on by the WFTU for the Soviet Union. They called it an organization which clearly served the secret designs of the Soviet Union. In the very recent past, the secretary general of WFTU, Mr Peter (Jenuis), who has held that post since 1973, offered his resignation at the meeting of the World Trade Union Congress and accused WFTU of being a spy wing of the Soviet Union. He charged that most unions in different countries affiliated with WFTU implicitly followed directives from Russia. He, therefore, (wanted no part in an) organization which was serving only one country's interests. Pakistan's Ms Kaniz Fatima and India's Mohindra Raji (sentence incomplete ... are officeholders in ...) the Asian wing of WFTU Mirza's representative, Sardar Shauqat, attended the international congress of WFTU recently held in Prague. He went to Prague secretly; on his way he stayed over in Afghanistan. From there he went to Moscow with Mr Anis of Karachi and Mr Rafiq Hasan of Lahore. WFTU is committed to support its dependent federations and unions politically and in matters pertaining to unionizing. Of course we all know through the press that in the court case involving the firing incident at Multan Cotton Mills, money was provided through certain channels. The question here is whether the government is or is not aware of these traitors and snakes among us being nourished by foreign governments. If our government is aware of them, what is it doing to save Pakistan and the Pakistani people from the dangers posed by this seriously threatening situation?

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